

'PLO ready for elections'

LONDON (AP) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is ready for immediate elections in the Israeli-occupied territories if Israel guarantees it is prepared to pull out of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, a spokesman said Sunday. "I hereby announce that the PLO is ready for elections tomorrow if it is guaranteed freedom and democracy," Bassam Abu Sharif, a spokesman for PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, told the British Broadcasting Corporation. "We are ready if the world community will guarantee that the elections we go to will be one step in a process that will lead to an end of the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza," he said. Abu Sharif was speaking from Tunis where Fatah, the main group within the PLO, held its congress last week. The congress called for intensified military action to end the Israeli occupation and rejected Israeli Premier Yitzhak Shamir's plan for elections.

Jordan Times

An independent Arabic political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جورдан تايمز ديمقراطية معاشر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية - الرأي

Volume 14 Number 4160

AMMAN MONDAY, AUGUST 14, 1989, MUHARRAM 12, 1410

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

Israeli troops kill 2 Arab children

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops shot dead two Palestinian children and resistance activists killed four suspected collaborators in another weekend of violence in a 20-month-old uprising in the occupied territories.

In the Gaza Strip, troops fired tear-gas and shot in the air to disperse Palestinians in protests over new identity cards to work in Israel, witnesses said. The troops arrested some Palestinians, they said.

An Arab hospital said a three-year-old girl, Bothina Hejo, died of gunshot wounds in her chest and arm during clashes in the Khan Younis refugee camp in the Gaza Strip.

A 13-year-old Gaza boy, Faiez Jabber Abu Aeid, died Sunday of wounds suffered in a clash with troops Saturday.

Three of the suspected collaborators were killed in Nablus in the West Bank. The fourth was shot dead in Gaza.

The new deaths raised the death toll to at least 596 Arabs since the revolt erupted in December 1987.

Gaza workers have been caught in a tug-of-wills between Israeli occupation authorities who force them to carry the computerised cards and leaders of the uprising who urge that they forfeit them rather than work in Israel.

The cards, distributed over the last two months, will be mandatory by Friday, sources said. The cards aim to keep out Arabs "suspected" by Israel of "inciting violence."

The uprising leaders have called almost weekly general strikes, ordering workers not to go to jobs in Israel in an effort to disrupt Israel's economy.

In the Gaza Strip, soldiers fired tear-gas and rubber bullets at youths who were stoning workers near the Erez crossing into Israel, where about 5,000 Gazans applied for entry permits before the Friday deadline, officials said.

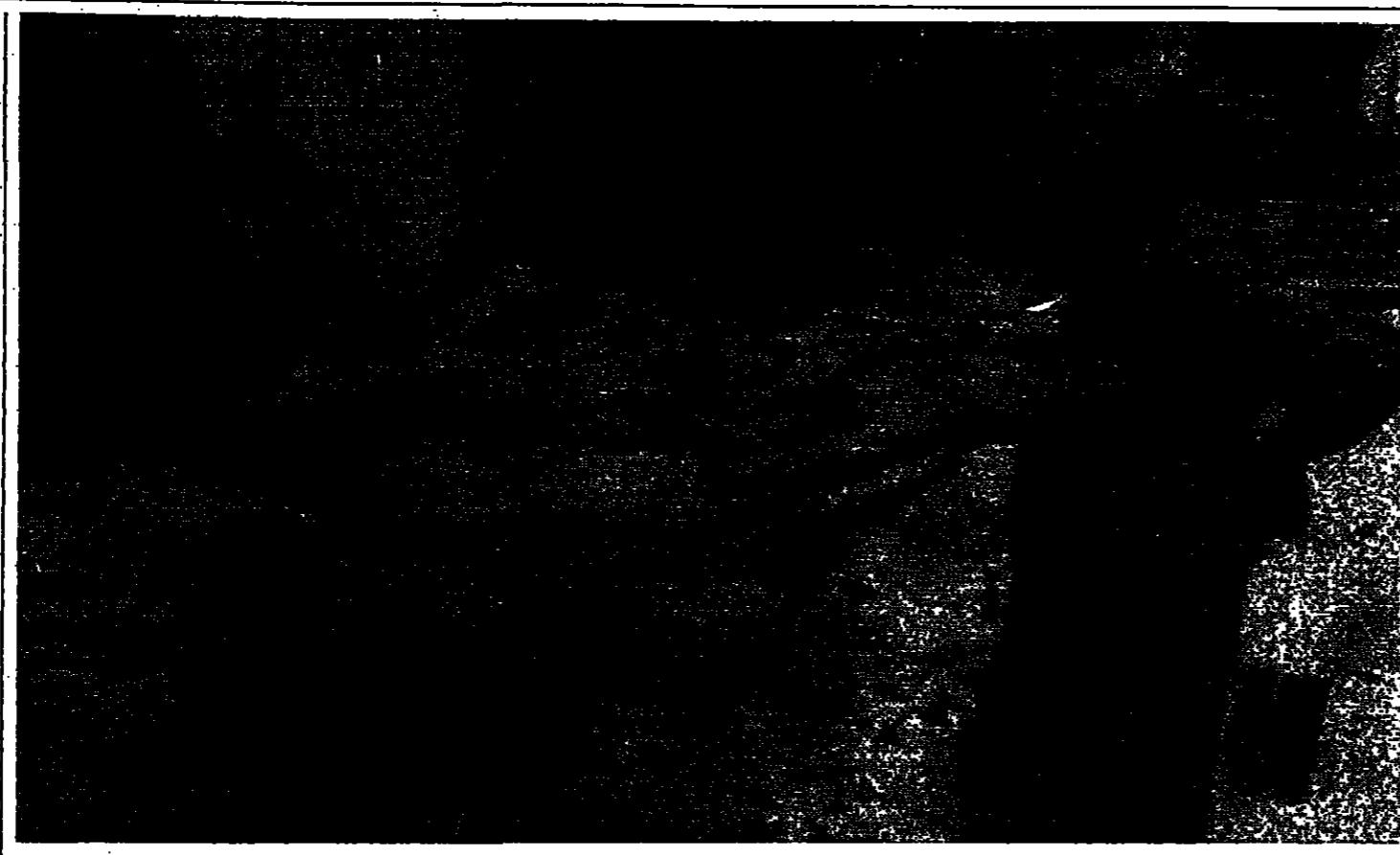
Six Palestinians were shot and wounded in clashes with soldiers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, hospital officials said. The officials said one of the victims was a 12-year-old who lost an eye when he was hit by a rubber-coated metal pellet.

In the West Bank village of Jabel, masked youths hurled several fire bombs at the house of Ahmad Odeh, a well-known dealer who sold land to Israelis, Palestinians said.

Odeh, who is protected by five armed bodyguards, ran from his house and opened fire at his attackers but no one was injured, they said.

Palestinians also said soldiers carried out overnight search-and-arrest operations in nearly a dozen West Bank villages near Jenin and Ramallah.

Hospitals reported 18 Palestinians wounded Saturday.



A bewildered old woman looking at the rubble of a house destroyed in west Beirut by shelling

Syrian-backed assault on Souq Al Gharb stalled

BEIRUT (Agencies) — A major battle erupted Sunday for control of a strategic ridge near Beirut and hospitals overflowed with civilian casualties from four days of savage artillery bombardments across the divided Lebanese capital.

Military sources said Syrian troops and allied Lebanese militiamen launched the first ground offensive since the latest fighting broke out five months ago with a dawn assault on Souq Al Gharb ridge overlooking the city.

One security source said hundreds of soldiers were killed in the battle between loyal troops to army commander Michel Aoun and Syria and its Lebanese allies. His report could not immediately be checked.

The sources said the bodies of 10 Syrian soldiers had been taken to a hospital in the suburb of Baabda. They also said one Syrian had been captured.

At least 35 civilians were killed and 80 wounded in Sunday's shelling, hospital and security sources said, raising the toll in the past four days of artillery duels to more than 550 killed or wounded.

The sky has turned into a volcano pouring fire and death, the Syrian fireball covers Beirut," the Voice of Lebanon radio said.

In Damascus, French envoy Francois Scheer met Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa in a bid by Paris to end the bloodshed. Scheer refused to comment on his 3½ hours of talks, saying he would report to his government. (See page 2).

Aoun warned that the Syrians were now expected to escalate their bombardment of the Christian enclave that fans out north of the capital.

The Syrian-backed Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) claimed in a communiqué that the Souq Al Gharb garrison was overrun.

But Aoun's headquarters said the four-pronged attack by 2,100 Syrian regulars, PSP militiamen and Palestinian fighters was beaten back by the army's crack 8th brigade in five hours of heavy fighting.

A military communiqué said

the attacking force left some 150 dead and wounded littering the battle zone. But a senior army source later said 10 Syrians, 20 PSP men and 20 Palestinians were confirmed killed.

The source, speaking on condition of anonymity, declined to say what army casualties were, but admitted there "are plenty."

He said another 12 Syrians were killed in the fighting along Beirut's dividing green line.

Police confirmed that the assault on the onetime resort town, abandoned by its population in 1983, was stalled.

As Aoun claimed "victory," PSP leader Walid Jumblatt canceled a scheduled news conference at which he had been expected to announce the capture of Souq Al Gharb.

The shell-battered town, besieged by PSP forces for more than five years, controls a network of roads twisting through Lebanon's central mountains.

If the Syrians had captured it, they would have been able to tighten the noose around Aoun

forces besieged in their 800-square-kilometre enclave since mid-March.

The loss of Souq Al Gharb would leave Beirut's suburbs of Baabda and Yarze, where the bulk of Aoun's forces and armour are deployed, vulnerable to attack.

Aoun, 53, has lived in a bunker under the shell-blasted presidential palace in Baabda since the early days of the latest confrontation in Lebanon's 14-year-old civil war. The Defence Ministry is located in nearby Yarze.

The Kuwaiti cabinet expressed deep concern Sunday over the destruction in Lebanon and exhorted the Arab League to resume efforts "to save Lebanon," acting Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Abdul Rahim Al Awadi announced.

Egypt also expressed deep anxiety at the escalating violence in Lebanon and appealed to all warring factions to assume their "national and historical responsibilities" to end the bloodshed.

They said all 16 people on board appeared to have been killed when the plane crashed in rugged country between Gambela and Dembi-Dolo in western Ethiopia Monday.

Three were unaccounted for but the sources said they could not have survived. It was not immediately known whether the body of Leland, 44, was among the 13 recovered from the wreckage.

In Washington, the Defence Department confirmed an American medical team had recovered 13 bodies.

Israel refuses to believe captive soldiers dead

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — The Israeli army's chief spokesman said Sunday he believes two Israeli soldiers held captive in Lebanon are still alive, despite a British newspaper report that they have been dead for more than three years.

"My consideration is that they are alive and we must do our utmost to bring them home," General Ephraim Lapid told a news conference.

But he refused to directly confirm or deny the report in the Sunday Times of London that investigators who questioned a kidnapped Lebanese Shi'ite clergyman have concluded both soldiers died within hours after their car was ambushed in South Lebanon in February 1986.

It said Israeli officials earlier believed at least one had survived the attack.

The London weekly said an airman shot down in October 1986, is believed to be alive, but held by a Lebanese militia with closer ties to Syria than Iran.

The newspaper said Israeli military officials had told the parents of the soldiers, Yousef Fink and Rahamim Asheik, that their sons were dead. But the Israeli daily Yediot Achronot quoted both families as denying the report.

Lapid said the government would not comment on results of Obeid's interrogation.

But he added, "We consider our prisoners of war... as living until positive evidence proves the contrary."

"By proof," he told army radio earlier, "we do not mean through the British media or other media, but through the Red Cross."

Uzi Mahanaimi, military correspondent of Yediot, reported Friday that Israeli officials had seen no evidence in 18 months that the two infantrymen were still alive.

Asked about the Sunday Times report, Mahanaimi said he believed it was true, but would not comment further.

The British weekly quoted Israeli sources as saying Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has tried to keep the deaths a secret from the United States to avoid pressure to free Obeid in exchange for western hostages.

Space shuttle Columbia lands safely after secret mission

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE (Agencies) — The space shuttle Columbia, completing its first mission since the 1986 explosion of its sister ship Challenger, landed safely Sunday after deploying what is believed to be a powerful spy satellite over the Soviet Union.

The apparently trouble-free, secret military mission of the fleet's oldest shuttle ended on a dry lake-bed runway in the California desert where Columbia made a picture-perfect landing.

Columbia, the oldest member of the shuttle fleet, touched down at 6:38 a.m. (1338 GMT) after a mission that lasted five days, one hour and 56 seconds.

Air force Capt. Brewster Shaw, commander of the five-man crew, guided the 97-ton winged

spaceship to a touchdown on a hard clay runway after a flight that covered more than 3.2 million kilometres.

Some booms cracked overhead as Columbia descended through a clear sky and made its sweeping approach to runway 17 on Rogers Dry Lake.

An hour before landing, Shaw fired twin braking rockets to drop the shuttle out of orbit and start it on a fiery dive through the atmosphere and into the desert air base 130 kilometres north of Los Angeles.

Officials lifted a curtain of silence to report the successful firing of the braking rockets and provided updated information as Columbia came home.

The weather was ideal, with clear skies, unlimited visibility

and mild temperatures.

Although as many as half a million people have flocked to the desert air base to watch previous shuttle land, Sunday's touchdown was closed to the public because of the classified nature of the mission.

Most news about the flight has been blacked out on Defense Department orders since an overhauled Columbia lifted off from Cape Canaveral, Florida, last Tuesday on its first flight in more than three years.

Officials made only periodic statements that spacecraft and crew were fine and to disclose the landing day and time.

Sources close to the project said the main goal of the flight was the deployment of a sophisticated, 10-ton spy satellite designed to snap highly detailed

photographs of military installations, troop movements and other targets of interest around the world.

It would help the United States verify Soviet compliance with arms treaties, just as Soviet satellites do over the United States and Europe.

Air Force Secretary Donald Rice confirmed Wednesday a satellite was deployed by the astronauts during their first day in orbit, but he would not discuss its purpose.

To prepare for the trip back to Earth, Columbia's commander Shaw and pilot Richard Richards conducted a series of tests Saturday to make certain the shuttle's computers and control jets were ready.

Discovery and Atlantis have made two space trips each since flights resumed last September.

Adamson and Mark Brown stowed several experiments. Some of those tests were believed to be connected with the proposed space-based missile defence project known as "Star Wars," while others involved determining how people can serve as military observers from space.

Columbia last flew in January 1986, landing 10 days before the Challenger explosion that killed the crew of seven. After the accident, U.S. space officials concentrated on making safety modifications to the two newer shuttles, Discovery and Atlantis, before turning attention to Columbia.

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The trial, held in the Umma Party's former headquarters, was adjourned until next Saturday when Banna will be given a chance to defend himself.

He was shown on state-run television Saturday evening appearing before a military tribunal in Khartoum's twin city, Omdurman.

Banna, who belonged to deposed Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi's Umma Party, was not given a formal chance to speak but could be heard protesting that he had been convicted in advance through allegation in the junta-controlled news media.

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Hanoi sees little progress in talks

BANGKOK (AP) — Warring Cambodian factions have made no progress at the Paris peace conference on deciding the role of the Khmer Rouge in a future Cambodia, the official Vietnam News Agency said in a report seen Sunday. Quoting its correspondent in the French capital, the agency said progress was blocked because a three-party resistance coalition clung to its demand that the Khmer Rouge be included from an interim Cambodian government. The coalition group, which includes the Khmer Rouge, and the pro-Hanoi government in Cambodia are trying to resolve problems in an ad hoc committee set up by the month-long conference. The international conference also has set up three other committees to deal with aspects of the complex peace process. The Vietnamese News Agency said progress within these has been "slow" because of the Khmer Rouge problem.

King, Sharif Zaid meet American senator

U.S. to maintain aid programme for Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — The United States will maintain its present aid programme for Jordan and Amman are bound to help the U.S. administration better understand the economic situation in the Kingdom.

Speaking after an audience with His Majesty King Hussein and a meeting with Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, the Republican Senator from New Mexico said he was delighted over the outcome of his visit and his meetings with Jordanian leaders.

His visit, he said, is mainly

occupied West Bank.

King receives message

King Hussein Sunday received a written message from Mauritanian President Muwaia Ould Sid' Ahmad Al Tayeb delivered at the Royal Court by Mauritanian envoy Sheikh Sayed Ahmad Ould Baba.

Petra, which reported the contents of the message.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said Domenici and Sharif Zaid reviewed the latest developments in the Middle East and cooperation between the United States and Jordan in economic and financial fields.

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U.S. may have to return Iran assets

By Steve Holland
Reuters

WASHINGTON — Freedom for eight American hostages in Lebanon may depend on whether the United States can repay millions of dollars in frozen Iranian assets without it appearing to be ransom money.

The United States froze Iranian assets in 1979 when the Shah of Iran was toppled. Some of the money has been returned and the remainder is being negotiated by a tribunal in the Hague.

Iran says if Washington returns the money, it would use its influence to persuade pro-Iranian factions in Lebanon to free the hostages. But the United States says such a payment would look too much like a ransom.

Some analysts say U.S. diplomats should reach an agreement that would free the captives and repay Iran but would not appear as an outright money-for-hostages swap.

Former Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Director Stansfield Turner says it could be done in the same way former President Ronald Reagan persuaded Israel to trade 765 Arab prisoners for 39 Americans on hijacked airliner in June 1985.

"The timing was set off a couple of months so it didn't appear too obvious, but it was a deal no matter how you cut it," he said.

President George Bush has let it be known that he would like better relations with Iran, but he will not discuss anything that could be interpreted as trading purchases for hostages.

The American people appear to have mixed feelings.

A Time magazine poll this week said 76 per cent of Americans were against paying a ransom for the hostages, but 58 per cent said the United States should negotiate with "terrorists" for their release.

Last year France was in a similar position. Two weeks after France's last three hostages were released in Beirut on May 4, 1988, Paris said it would settle the outstanding balance on a 1974

loan of \$1 billion made during the Shah's rule.

Richard Murphy, who was Reagan's assistant secretary of state for the Middle East, says the French came close to appearing to be paying for their captives.

"We don't want to do that. We think that encourages more seizures. The assets issue will be settled, but they're never going to get it settled by linking it to the hostages," he said.

Iran expert Shireen Hunter of the Washington Centre for Strategic and International Studies says Iran should believe Bush when he says Iran will benefit if it works to free the hostages.

"The Iranians are going to want some assurances and some inducements to use all the political capital they have in Lebanon and do their best in a serious way to help us get our hostages."

"But obviously one has to realize the political realities in the United States... we can't say release the assets first and then see if Iran will help us get our people out. It has to be some kind of parallel move in that direction without making any connection."

The Iran-United States claims tribunal has been working on unfreezing the assets for about seven years. Iran claims it is still owed \$12 billion but the Washington's estimate is in the millions of dollars.

Dan Levitt, a New York attorney representing Iran, said that at its present pace the court still has two or three years of work ahead. Part of the problem involves deposits Iran put down for military purchases that were never delivered.

An Arab diplomat says the United States might as well pay off the assets since it is going to do so eventually.

"What is the United States going to do with the assets, wait for the Shah to come back? I'm not suggesting negotiating with 'terrorists'. But if paying this amount of money will get the hostages out for sure, then I see nothing wrong with reaching a kind of agreement without making it look like a payoff."

The sources said the radicals were struggling to have current Prime Minister Mir-Hossein

By Eric Hall
Reuters

DUBAI — Radical Islamic leaders are fighting hard to get the key foreign and intelligence posts in Iran's new government, which could create a split in foreign and economic policy.

Newly-elected President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani is expected to announce his cabinet after parliament reconvenes in the coming week.

The names that appear will indicate whether Iran will focus on economic revival and reconstruction of international political ties, Iranian and Western analysts said Sunday.

"If the hardliners get these posts, there will inevitably be confrontation over future policy," said an Iranian analyst.

Rafsanjani has made clear he wants to concentrate on rebuilding an economy which is alive but barely breathing after eight years of war with Iraq and confrontation with the West.

He has ended Tehran's long-standing hostility to Moscow and used the latest crisis over Western hostages held by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon to negotiations to the United States, the "great Satan" of Iran's revolution.

Iranian political sources close to senior parliamentarians in Tehran said Rafsanjani appeared assured of getting the men he wanted into the main economic portfolios but the radicals believed he could not exclude them entirely.

"It is on a fine edge," said one source, who declined to be identified.

Current Interior Minister Ali Akbar Mohtashemi has been most outspoken in contradicting Rafsanjani. Western analysts believe his post could go to former interior minister and Rafsanjani supporters Ali Akbar Nateq Nouri.

The sources said the radicals were struggling to have current Prime Minister Mir-Hossein



Ali Akbar Velayati

minister, Ali Akbar Velayati, was lined up for the post of vice-president.

Khoeiniha was one of the religious leaders that Ayatollah Khomeini's revolution brought to prominence, and is one of the best examples of what political analysts of Iran mean when they use the term "hardliners."

Khoeiniha led the assault on the U.S. embassy in Tehran in 1979.

He stands firmly behind Khomeini's first rule that no political, social or economic pressures must be allowed to compromise the purity of Islamic principles, the analysts said.

But the current head of internal security, Mohammad Mohammadi Reysabri, who does not oppose Rafsanjani's policies, had strong clerical backing of his own in Iran's holy city of Qom and might prove a tough man to shift, the analysts said.

Rafsanjani seems to want the post of defence minister, now combining the regular forces and the powerful Revolutionary Guards, for his supporter Mohsen Rafiqdost, a former Revolutionary Guards minister, the sources said.

They said Rafsanjani's men to watch for in the economic ministries were Mohsen Nourkash, a California-trained economist and former central bank governor, and Habib Ollah Asgaroladi, an influential spokesman for merchants' interests in parliament.

Nourkash could be involved in economic planning, and Asgaroladi is tipped as commerce minister, they said. Ali Akbar Nateq Nouri, another supporter of Rafsanjani's policies, was also mentioned as possible economic reconstruction chief.

Finance Minister Mohammad Javad Iravani, Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqaeezadeh and Heavy Industry Minister Bezhad Nabavi were most likely to remain, they said.

Any dramatic departures from these names will be watched carefully in case they show Rafsanjani's power to implement his policies could be undermined, Western analysts said.



A Lebanese woman inspects the wreckage of her home devastated by bombardments in Beirut.

France launches diplomatic efforts for Lebanon peace

DAMASCUS (R) — A senior French envoy met Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa Sunday as part of a drive by Paris to end the bitter fighting devastating Lebanon.

Diplomats said Francois Schiefer, secretary-general at the French Foreign Ministry, was to renew his government's plea to Syria to help end the fighting in Lebanon.

In Beirut, security and hospital sources said nearly 450 people had been killed or wounded in the past four days of bitter arti-

lery duels between Syrian troops and militia allies and forces loyal to Lebanon's army commander Michel Aoun.

France is current president of the EC.

A ministry statement condemned "with the greatest firmness the massive bombardments which each day add new victims among the Lebanese civilian population." It called for a lifting of all blockades so dialogue could be restarted.

Damascus accused Aoun Saturday of being responsible for the latest round of violence in Lebanon, saying he had rejected a ceasefire offered by the forces backed by Syria.

Syrian newspapers said the only way to solve the Lebanese crisis was to remove Aoun, who precipitated the fighting in mid-March by seeking to extend his control beyond the Christian enclave and vowing to drive the 40,000 Syrian troops in Lebanon from the country.

"The national forces which realise conspiracy (by Aoun) is on full alert... salvation could not be made without ousting this (Aoun) clique," the official organ of the ruling Baath Party, Al Baath, said.

The Syrian Times said Aoun's role was part of what it termed Israel's war against the Lebanese.

"Aoun's war, like Israel's war, is a war against the Arab character of Lebanon," the paper said.

War follows wounded

War followed the wounded from the Beirut blitz to their sick beds Saturday, forcing patients at a West Beirut hospital to flee underground to avoid further injury.

Two shells struck the first floor of the Barak hospital, some 500 metres from the green line battle zone, starting a fire which spread panic among patients.

Hospital officials said the sick, some wounded in the fighting which flared Thursday, were evacuated together with staff to an underground emergency room.

The hospital announced over radio stations that it could accept no more casualties from the artillery, tank and rocket battles.

"We're ordinary people and when the shelling and fire is too intense we can't do it," said a Red Cross worker in east Beirut. "Sometimes we do it anyway," he added.

Children play in the streets of west Beirut in front of a shell-pocked building where a young man patches up his window after a spell of savage shelling.

Rising prices put squeeze on Afghans

By Edith M. Lederer
The Associated Press

KABUL — In the dusty, fly-ridden food bazaars of Kabul, astute merchants check to see whether the roads are open or closed before setting the price of key staples like rice and flour.

During the past month, the Logar road, which had been the main route for transporting grain and produce from Pakistan, has been closed. The other key road to Pakistan, southeast through Jalalabad, has been closed intermittently because of the guerrillas' siege of the city.

For most of the 2.25 million Afghans living in the capital and facing almost daily rocket attacks, the result has been a steep increase in food prices on the open market. The price for flour, used to make the traditional Afghan flat bread called nan, has shot up the highest.

"People are not happy. They are very hungry now because food is too expensive," said Gul Mohammad, a bearded trader selling three-kilogramme sacks of flour on the side of the road at the new market in western Kabul.

Rebel goal

It's not clear whether the Logar road has been closed because of civil war fighting or

a blockade by the U.S.-backed guerrillas who have been battling since 1978 to overthrow the country's Soviet-supported government.

But the Pakistan-based guerrillas say that soaring food prices help their cause.

Abdu Sera of the fundamentalist group Hezb-e-Islami Khalia, which receives substantial aid from the United States, said the guerrillas' strategy was to squeeze the capital and force residents to evacuate. That would enable the guerrillas to step up their attacks on the city.

"We want to make it so expensive that people leave Kabul," Sera told the Associated Press in Islamabad, Pakistan. "They are facing a big shortage of food."

Professor Burhanuddin Rabani, leader of the fundamentalist Jamiat-e-Islami group, said the often-quarreling some guerrilla factions must develop a coordinated plan to cut off all the roads leading into the capital in order to take Kabul.

"We must have total blockade," he told a Western journalist in Peshawar last week.

An average Afghan worker earns about 3,500 afghanis a month, now worth less than \$10. Inflation is rampant and U.N. officials estimate prices have gone up 200 per cent since

Jan. 1. Closing the Logar road has made the situation worse: the price of a three-kilogramme sack of flour in Kabul has risen from 670 afghanis (\$1.72) on July 4 to 850 afghanis (\$2.43) this past week — 27 per cent of a worker's monthly salary. The cost of one nan, or piece of flat bread, has jumped from six afghanis (1.5 cents) to 14 afghanis (3.6 cents).

Iranian analysts said Rafsanjani's preferred choice for foreign minister is Mohammad Javad Larjani, fluent in English and a doctor of logic and mathematics from the University of California.

They said the present foreign

stored in Haritan near the Soviet border.

The government is using it to replenish grain reserves in Kabul, hoping to avoid a repeat of last winter's severe shortages of food and fuel.

Hungry Kabul residents lined up in the dark in sub-freezing temperatures in the worst winter here in 16 years to buy nan, but sometimes there wasn't any because there wasn't any fuel for the ovens to bake it.

Brian Stockwell of the World Food Programme said the Afghan government has reported the silo now holds about 20,000 metric tonnes of grain, up from just under 8,000 metric tonnes last week.

While the silo has a capacity of 50,000 metric tonnes, the Ministry of Light Industry and Food has said it can stockpile only about 40,000 metric tonnes for the winter, Stockwell said.

That is less than half the estimated 90,000 to 100,000 metric tonnes needed to get Kabul through the worst three winter months, Stockwell said.

It isn't clear yet where the rest will come from, but it could be donated by the United Nations, or possibly the Soviets. Negotiations with the Soviets are going on in Moscow and Geneva, Stockwell said.

In the past week, the silo has been a prime target of guerrillas

rocket attacks. Many rockets missed, but Monday one shattered windows and caused minor damage.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Mohammad Nabi Amani said the rebels' attempts to destroy the silo were an act of economic sabotage aimed at starving the city.

Kabul's residents are preoccupied with finding enough to eat.

Shah said he couldn't afford rice. Three-kilogramme sack now costs 1,800 afghanis (\$4.62), a little less than half his monthly salary of 4,000 afghanis (\$10.25).

A similar-sized sack of sugar costs 2,000 afghanis (\$5.13), a single egg sells for 35 afghanis (9 cents) and a kilogramme of mutton is 850 afghanis (\$2.43).

The price increases have been partially offset by a fall in vegetable prices as fresh, locally grown produce comes on the market. Onions and potatoes have both dropped from about 500 afghanis (1.29) for three-kilogramme sacks to 320 afghanis (87 cents).

The greatest problem, however, is the rising price of flour.

"An Afghan will be hungry unless he gets three nans every day," said a Western relief expert. "This is the mainstay of the Afghan diet."

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06) 332005, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:00 ... Aqaba (RJ)
11:45 ... Beograd (YU)
11:45 ... Rome (RJ)
12:15 ... Montreal, New York (RJ)
12:30 ... Vienna, Chicago, Los Angeles (RJ)

12:45 ... Istanbul (TR)
13:15 ... Copenhagen (DK)
13:45 ... Cairo (RJ)

14:45 ... Ankara (TR)
14:45 ... Dhaka (BD)
14:45 ... Jeddah (RJ)

15:15 ... Seoul (RJ)
15:45 ... Tokyo (RJ)

16:30 ... Bangkok (TH)
16:45 ... Abu Dhabi (UAE)

17:45 ... New York, Vienna (RJ)

18:15 ... Istanbul (TR)

18:45 ... Bucharest (RO)

19:30 ... Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)

19:30 ... Dubai (EK)

19:30 ... Rome (RJ)

20:45 ... Frankfurt (LH)

21:15 ... Ankara (TR)

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

KING CONGRATULATES PAKISTAN: His Majesty King Hussein Sunday called congratulations to Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan on Pakistan's Independence Day anniversary. In his cable, the King wished the Pakistani president good health and the people further progress and prosperity. On this occasion, a flag hoisting ceremony will be held Monday at the Pakistani embassy premises. (Petra)

KING VISITS PRIME MINISTRY: His Majesty King Hussein Sunday visited the Prime Ministry and conferred with Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Isha Shaker. The King gave his directives about a number of issues. (Petra)

QUEEN NOOR TO VISIT VTC: Her Majesty Queen Noor will visit the Ministry of Labour's Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) Monday to acquaint herself with projects and future plans. Labour Minister Jamal Bdour is expected to present the Queen with a briefing on the VTC, which was established in 1975, and its endeavours to provide training to Jordanian youth in various trades. Following the visit, the minister will accompany the Queen on a tour of the Manara Urban Development Centre in Qweisneh. (Petra)

65 NEW DOCTORS: The Ministry of Health and Social Development has decided allowing 65 doctors to practice medicine in the public and private sectors. (Petra)

LOANS FOR FARMERS: The Agricultural Credit Corporation branch in Ajloun has presented loans of JD 7,325 to 48 farmers in the first half of 1989. (Petra)

ARAB-EUROPEAN COMPANY: Representatives of the Arab Pharmaceutical Industries, European pharmaceutical industries and Union of Arab Chambers of Commerce held a meeting Sunday here and discussed a project to establish an Arab-European joint company for the production of primary pharmaceutical materials. They also reviewed all matters related to the establishment of the company as well as a formula for cooperation between the company and the general secretariat.

ASSAD TO HEAD TEAM FOR DAMASCUS MEETING: Jordan is to take part in the fourth conference by Arab Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research due to open in Damascus on Aug. 29. Minister of Higher Education Nasser Al Assad will lead the Jordanian delegation to the three-day meeting. (Petra)

DERMATOLOGIST ELECT NEW PRESIDENT: Dr. Oumeish Yousef Oumeish has been elected as the new president of the Jordanian Dermatological and Venereological Society in Jordan. The society, which groups 100 members, conducts programmes within the Jordan Medical Association to promote medical and health services in the country. (J.T.)

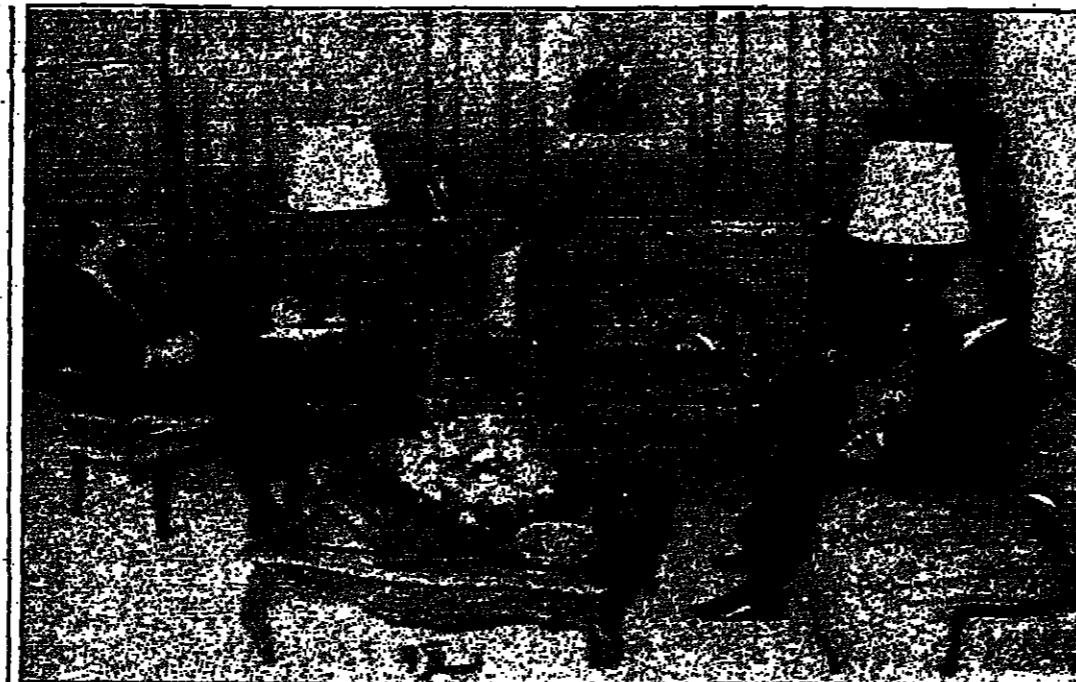
Jordan to take part in industrial fair on Sept. 2

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will participate in an Arab industrial fair which will be organised at Buenos Aires on Sept. 2, according to a spokesman for the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

The fair, which is organised by the joint Arab-Argentine Chamber of Commerce is designed to boost cooperation between Argentina and the Arab countries in economic and cultural fields and increase the volume of trade between the two sides.

Jordan hopes to orient the Argentinian public on Jordanian national industrial and agricultural products so that markets for them can be opened in Argentina and Latin America at large, the spokesman said.

Intensive consultations are underway between the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the Ministry's Jordan Commercial



Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Isha Shaker Sunday receives Libyan Minister of Health Mustafa Al Zaidi. Also present is Minister of Health and Social Development Zahair Malhas. (Petra photo)

Jordan, Libya sign health pact

AMMAN (Petra) — Libyan Minister of Health Mustafa Al Zaidi Sunday wound up a four-day visit to Jordan and left for home.

During the visit, the minister

signed a health agreement paving the way for Jordan and Libya to cooperate in the pharmaceutical industry and for Libya to benefit from Jordan's expertise in pharmaceutical industries and the pro-

duction of vaccines.

Under the agreement signed by Zaidi and his Jordanian counterpart Zahair Malhas, the two countries will give each other priority in registering and marketing medicine produced by either one.

The Libyan minister and his delegation toured a number of medical institutions and pharmaceutical industries in Jordan and discussed cooperation in the exchange of products and marketing matters.

In a statement before departure, Zaidi described his visit as positive and noted that the bilateral agreement would open the way for a greater measure of cooperation not only in pharmaceuticals but also in operating hospitals and health centres, and offering Libyans the chance to train in Jordanian medical institutions.

Zaidi said that the two sides have agreed on joint production of vaccines and in providing one another with technical assistance in health-related fields.

Before leaving, the Libyan minister called on Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Isha Shaker and reviewed with him the bilateral agreement.

Sharif Zaid for his part, said that Jordan welcomed any steps that would open the way for cooperation with Libya in medical and health fields.

Amman, Bonn sign DM 67m loan accord

BONN (J.T.) — A Jordanian-West German agreement signed recently in Bonn provides for grants and loans to Jordan during 1989 amounting to DM 67 million and will be spent on ways to help the Kingdom's technological and economic development.

The agreement, signed by Minister of Planning Ziyad Fariz and the director of Arab and North African Affairs Department at the West German Ministry for Economic Cooperation is to help Jordan carry out projects in water and irrigation as well as the on-going preparations for the construction of the Wahdeh Dam on Yarmouk River near the Syrian border.

The two sides also agreed on dispatching more German experts to Jordan to help carry out agricultural projects and execute land reclamation schemes for the purpose of increasing food production.

West Germany has been pro-

viding financial and technical assistance to Jordan to help it carry out a development project in the Zarqa River Basin which is also designed to increase the area of productive land, reduce sediments in the King Talal Reservoir and prevent soil erosion.

In the technological field, the two sides agreed that Bonn should provide vocational and technical training to Jordanian trainees and to help the Kingdom in the course of executing schemes to maintain quality control and standard specifications for manufactured products.

According to a statistical bulletin quoted by the West German embassy in Amman, Bonn's imports of Jordanian products increased over the 1987 and 1988 period by 18 per cent, rising to DM 38.1 million from DM 32.3 million in earlier years.

The statistics show that Bonn's exports to Jordan declined from DM 416 million to DM 311 million over the same periods.

NAF currently distributes JD 187,713 to 9,395 families

AMMAN (Petra) — The National Aid Fund (NAF) is currently distributing JD 187,713 to 9,395 needy families in Jordan on a monthly basis, according to Khalil Faouri, the fund's secretary general.

Faouri said that 127 needy families were added to the list of poor people receiving the aid in the past month.

Faouri said that needy people in all urban, rural and badie regions and population settlements benefit from the fund either by receiving lumpsum financial aid to help them start a

business, or through monthly payments that might reach JD 40 for each family.

The NAF, Faouri noted, continually tries to help the head of needy families to obtain decent jobs or to get training in a trade from which to earn a living for their families.

At the same time, he said, NAF maintains a constant study of requests coming in from various areas to determine the need of poor families and help them acquire free medical treatment at government hospitals.

29 per cent of homes use solar heaters

AMMAN (J.T.) — Nearly 29 per cent of the total number of homes in the Kingdom now use solar heaters on their roofs, and they together provide some two per cent of the total energy needed in the country, according to Dr. Ibrahim Badran, the Ministry of Energy's secretary general.

Badran said that the total amount of energy used in the country is estimated to be worth \$400 million of which 40 per cent is being consumed by industry; 28.3 per cent for domestic uses and 31.7 per cent for the other sectors.

"The ministry has been encouraging the public to install solar heaters to heat water for domestic use because this saves a lot of fuel," Badran noted.

He said that Jordan started producing solar heaters in 1963, and so far more than 100,000

heaters have been installed. To heat water for domestic use, "no less than eight per cent of the total amount of fuel in Jordan is required; and this is now saved, thanks to the solar heaters produced by private sector companies," Badran added.

The Royal Scientific Society (RSS) has been spearheading efforts in the use of solar energy mainly for domestic use.

The RSS, in cooperation with the West German institutions has installed solar devices for producing energy to pump underground water and to supply electric power for Jur Al Darawish, a remote village not connected to the national grid.

The RSS continues the endeavours to help local manufacturing companies to improve their solar heaters.

Locust swarm destroyed west of Mudawarah

AMMAN (J.T.) — A swarm of desert locusts which was discovered in an agricultural field West of the Mudawarah region, near the border with Saudi Arabia, has been eliminated, according to an announcement by Minister of Agriculture Adnan Badran.

The swarm of locusts was found to have settled in a 1,000 dunum area while at the early stage of its growth and was completely wiped out by ministry teams equipped with special pesticides, the minister said in an announcement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Badran made an inspection tour of the affected area Sunday and himself supervised the work of the teams involved in combating the dangerous insects in cooperation with the Public Security Department (PSD).

Petra said that the teams sprayed the region with pesticides and later conducted a survey along the southern and south-eastern borders with Saudi Arabia, and reported that the whole area was void of any migrant locusts that might have invaded the country from Africa or neighbouring regions.

Late last year and early this year waves of desert locusts were fought off and completely annihilated after crossing into Jordanian territory from Saudi Arabia.

According to Badran's announcement, Jordan has so far escaped from the large invasions of desert locusts which were expected since the past spring.

Badran, in an address to a three-week training seminar on combating desert locusts last month called on the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) to establish a regional data bank in the Middle East linked to the Rome-based network so as to monitor the movements of the desert locusts and give early warning to the countries of the region.

Following last year's invasions, Jordan issued an appeal to friend-

ly nations and the United Nations Organisations to extend their hand to fight off the pest.

Several Arab and foreign countries as well as FAO responded by providing equipment, pesticides and other material to help fight off the dangerous pest.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) provided the Ministry of Agriculture earlier this year with air tractors — small planes specially equipped to spray pesticides — and Japan provided vehicles to carry spraying equipment in the desert.

According to specialists, a swarm of desert pests in a one square kilometre area might contain 40 million locusts which eat up to 120 tonnes of plantation in one day.

According to these specialists there is a great deal of uncertainty in predicting the movement of locusts. They said changing weather conditions, shifts in winds or areas in Saudi Arabia where locusts have not yet been controlled could result in the pest invading Jordan.

National Population Committee briefed on different studies conducted in Jordan

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The National Population Committee Sunday heard a report on steps so far taken to enable the committee to embark on its programme.

The committee's secretary, Mohammad Abdul Hadi Akel, outlined the steps, which include financial, transport and administrative matters, and said that the committee's office will be housed at the premises of the Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund (QAF) whose honorary chairman is Her Royal Highness Princess Basma.

The Princess was present at the meeting along with Dr. Jamal Bdour, the minister of labour.

The committee members were briefed on studies on motherhood,

childhood and fertility, as well as those conducted on the Jordanian workforce, women's participation in development and migration of people.

Akel also presented a report which referred to a donation of \$150,000 to the committee from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

The donation, he said, will finance the committee's research work and pay for related services.

Dr. Majid Khazraji, an expert from the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, was also present at the meeting.

ACC Awqaf ministers to meet Tuesday

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan is seeking to establish a council to coordinate work among ministries of Awqaf and Islamic affairs in the four member states of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) to fight hostile attempts directed against Islam, Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat said Sunday.

The minister said that this proposal will be submitted to a meeting in Baghdad Tuesday.

Khayyat, who leaves for the meeting Monday, said that the

four ministers will discuss coordination among their respective ministries in propagating Islam, a joint plan for investing Waqf (religious) funds, a plan for an exchange of expertise and publications in religious affairs and setting up Islamic exhibitions.

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WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

A plastic art exhibition by Jordanian Artist Maha Abu Ayyash at the Plastic Artists Association, Shmeissani.

FILM

A French film entitled "Les Zouz" at the French Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

أجل الأجل

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1975

جريدة الاردن يومية عربية سياسية ملخص تصدر باللغتين العربية والإنجليزية

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times Advertising Department.

Lopsided perspective

AS THE months tick away in the life of the Palestinian intifada, the international community appears to be getting numb to the news of additional Palestinian casualties that occur everyday. This is in naked contrast with the commotion that is always stirred every time an Israeli gets killed or injured in the process. This lopsided perspective suggests that Arab lives and blood in the eyes of the world are considered cheap and can be spent with ease and without remorse. So, as every day of the intifada brings in new number of killings among the struggling Palestinians, the world looks on with indifference and glazed eyes as if the split blood is of no concern to humanity.

Only a few days ago the Palestinian uprising entered its 21st month with no clear sign that the Israeli government even cares about the human lives that are being sacrificed on a routine daily basis. On the other hand every time an Israeli gets killed by a Palestinian, the Israeli government literally screams down the door of every Arab house for not coming out with the harshest condemnatory expressions and sentiments. Very conveniently ignored is the reality that the killing of Palestinians goes on in the West Bank and Gaza Strip unabated as if the Israelis are engaged in a legitimate hunt in a Palestinian reserve.

To be sure, with each and every drop of blood that is shed on the alter of the Palestinian intifada, Palestinian-Israeli relations sink to new lows. It is high time that the Israeli ruling establishment stops taking comfort in the daily deaths and injuries among the Palestinians. Better still, Israelis would be well-advised not to take the daily murders as serving as some kind of deterrence against the Palestinian uprising.

In point of fact, there is hardly a people which did achieve self-determination and independence without toil and blood. This obviously holds true for the Palestinians as well. And the more blood is split, the closer gets the day of reckoning when the oppressor has to yield to the oppressed. That is the "sonnet" of political freedom and independence ever since man developed the sense of nationalism. Thus instead of entertaining false hopes that killing Palestinians everyday would shorten the life span of the intifada, the Israeli government should realise that such additional blood is additional nails in the Israeli occupation's coffin.



Waleed — Al Dastour

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

TWO Jordanian dailies on Sunday commented on the situation in Lebanon in view of the indiscriminate shelling of residential areas and the loss of innocent life. Al Ra'i for its part said that the barbaric shelling has now reached a peak, killing people and destroying what remained of the Lebanese capital. What is happening in Lebanon is flagrant defiance to all morals and all human beings and is part of the ongoing conspiracies against the Arab Nation at large, the paper noted. The continuation of the crisis in Lebanon is part of the Israeli campaign to divert world attention from the real terrorist activity committed against the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories, said the paper. World Zionism seeks to make the world forget about Israeli troops atrocities and turn the attention towards what is happening among Arabs themselves, thus bringing a breathing space to Israel which has been subjected to world-wide criticism for its barbaric actions in Palestine, continued the paper. It should be remembered, said the paper, that if the Arab World fails to take a real drastic action to stop the massacre, the door will remain open for external forces to intervene with unpredictable consequences to the whole region.

Al Dastour said that regardless of the cause for which each of the conflicting parties is struggling to serve, the ongoing fighting in the Lebanese capital cannot be tolerated any longer. The shelling is directed against Lebanese citizens not against those responsible for the war, and the tragedy is befalling the whole Lebanon not the external forces which hold the power to stop the conflict, the paper noted. It said that the conflicting parties have a great responsibility towards their own people and Lebanon and they are too to blame for the failure of the Arab mediation committee's efforts. We urgently call on the Arab League to breathe a new life in its mediation committee and resort to more drastic measures that can put an end to the bloodshed, said the paper. It said that the situation is so dangerous now that every Arab country should rally forth and join forces with the Arab League to end the tragedy of the Lebanese people.

Sawt Al Shabab daily commented on the situation in the Jordanian financial and monetary markets by saying that the dinar seems now on its way to recovery. Thanks to the efforts of King Hussein and the response of the Arab countries spearheaded by Saudi Arabia, the Jordanian currency is now being pepped up and strengthened, lending strength to the national economy, the paper noted. It said that the firm dinar is gradually terminating what has been known before as the black market; and the continued intervention by the Central Bank is bound to bolster the national currency. There is no doubt, said the paper, that the conspiracy hatched against Jordan in the past three months is on its way toward its demise.

Weekly Political Pulse

By Waleed Sadi

Right to vote for all

ONE of the reasons offered for disenfranchising the members of our armed and police forces is the desire to maintain such sectors of the Jordanian society apolitical. The volatile history of the Middle East has something to do with this verdict as the armies of many Middle Eastern countries — not to mention most of the developing countries — became the pivotal instruments for change of government or regimes in the form of coups d'état or otherwise. This state of affairs had led many concerned observers to conclude that by de-politicising the armed forces of the developing countries, it would become possible to neutralise these forces and prevent them from dictating the course of their respective countries by sheer force and in a way out of proportion to their size within those countries.

Another thesis also often advanced in this regard, speaks of the wish to keep state agencies and governmental machines away from the limelight of politics in order to keep them strictly professional and to avoid the accusation that the central government is interfering with the political landscape of the nation through its own apparatus.

But do these propositions really hold much water in countries aspiring for democratic elections? To begin with, armed and security forces are not apolitical and cannot be. To ever presume that soldiers and policemen are immune to political currents is hypocritical and nonsensical. In these days of the approaching 21st century, it would be more correct to assume that our sons and daughters in the army or police are just as much involved in

politics and affected by political currents and decisions as anybody else. After all man is a political animal and no matter how much effort is made to conceal or hide that fact, he or she would remain so as much as any other citizen. It is common knowledge that our people in these forces read and watch the news and are affected by what they hear and see on television and radio whether domestic or foreign. To still maintain that these men and women can remain apolitical is contrary to all empirical evidence surrounding their lives and professions.

As for the argument that by denying the armed and police forces the right to vote the state can succeed in keeping these forces professional in the strictest sense, is also devoid of real and substantiated evidence. Some of the finest armed forces in the world give their men and women the right to vote. None of these countries have ever complained about weakening the professionalism of their forces because they were able to exercise a right that belongs to every citizen. In the real professional sense, one political orientation or another need not, and indeed in the case of armed and security forces, should not affect their professional duties and obligations. The mission of these forces is to protect the country from external and internal enemies. On such grave mandates, one's soldiers' political perspectives should never be allowed to interfere with the implementation of such national missions. Indeed many sophisticated countries have succeeded very well in such endeavours. As a matter of fact the countries which franchised their armed and security forces had the least to

worry about their allegiance in defence of their homeland. Others fear that by allowing members of the armed and police forces to vote the government could be accused of exploiting its hold and control over such forces in such a way as to determine the outcome of elections in its own favour. Again that is a shallow argument as no government has that kind of control over the secret votes of their apparatus be they civilian or otherwise. Besides, no regime or government has a vested interest in having its bureaucracy or armed forces vote en block in favour of the candidate or the other. In fact the opposite is true. Regimes and governments would very much want their public servants, be they civilians or military, to participate in the election of parliament. After all they are also citizens and have a duty and a right to elect their representatives in accordance with their opinions and judgements.

Over and above these considerations and other related ones, if our soldiers and policemen can be trusted with the defence and security of their nation, surely they can be trusted with the right to vote and express a preference of one candidate over the other. It is much better to let their political feelings and opinions out in the open rather than being kept up in their inner minds and souls. And since there is no constitutional constraints on according the members of our armed and police forces the right to exercise their right to vote, it would be wise of the next elected parliament to amend existing laws by reverting to our cherished members of our armed and security forces the right to vote.

Anti-apartheid groups regain offensive

By David Crary
The Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — Sidestepping an array of state-of-emergency bans, the militant core of the anti-apartheid movement is back on the offensive with a defiance campaign that has government leaders groping for a response.

Crushing the campaign by force could wreck the government's ongoing initiatives to improve its international standing.

Allowing unchecked civil disobedience could fuel widespread black activism and a white backlash against the governing National Party in advance of parliamentary elections next month.

The campaign, launched Aug. 3 when about 270 blacks and Indians sought and received treatment at segregated white hospitals, is led by many of the

activists who have been detained or restricted during the three-year-old state of emergency.

The Mass Democratic Movement says the defiance campaign will be extended soon to other targets, possibly segregated schools and recreation facilities.

Mineworkers have begun protesting workplace segregation and 17 former detainees in Cape Town said they would defy the restrictions imposed when they were freed.

"People have decided to take the matter into their own hands," said Essa Moosa, a lawyer involved in the campaign.

The campaign's leaders have designated themselves and their various organisations as the Mass Democratic Movement, a loose alliance which in effect takes the place of the United Democratic Front. The UDF was banned in February 1988, and by late last

year activists were conceding that the emergency crackdown had seriously weakened their organisational prowess.

The first sign of a resurgence came in January, when UDF affiliates helped organise hunger strikes by hundreds of detained black activists. Faced with the prospect of detainees starving to death without ever being charged, the government chose to free virtually every person held under emergency regulations.

Now comes the defiance campaign, which envisons the first sustained use of mass civil disobedience in South Africa since the 1950s. Its mainmazins are activists who have proved their resilience and persistence.

Two of the Mass Democratic Movement's key leaders are Murphy Morobe and Mohammad Valli Moosa, UDF officials who

escaped from detention to sanctuary at the U.S. consulate last year. The government allowed them to emerge without the restrictions imposed on many other UDF leaders.

Another key component of the new movement is the Congress of South African Trade Unions, the main black labour federation, which has blatantly defied a government decree barring it from political activity.

The government may have trouble responding decisively to the defiance campaign because of a partial power vacuum at the top. President P.W. Botha will retire after the Sept. 6 election, and neither he nor his designated successor, F.W. de Klerk, has been eager to make bold moves in recent weeks.

The government's point man in coping with the defiance cam-

paign is Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok. He asserted last month that the organisers sought to provoke violence and had endorsed hand-grenade attacks on election candidates.

The Mass Democratic Movement denied the allegations and mocked Vlok after the hospital protest proceeded peacefully, with minimal disruption to health services.

The Citizen said the government might regret its decision to avoid a pre-emptive crackdown on the protest's organisers.

The government's dilemma has been aggravated by the fact that its current policy documents repudiate racial discrimination.

Niekerk complained that sick beds had been used as pawns and said no hospitals elsewhere in the "civilised world" would be targeted by protesters. Anti-apartheid leaders agreed, saying no civilised country's hospitals would be racially segregated.

The Citizen, a pro-government newspaper, conceded in an editorial Friday that the activists "scored a propaganda victory, highlighting segregation at white hospitals, issuing defiant statements and challenging the authorities without suffering any serious consequences."

The Citizen said the government might regret its decision to avoid a pre-emptive crackdown on the protest's organisers.

The government's dilemma has been aggravated by the fact that its current policy documents repudiate racial discrimination.

Vlok himself declared during the week that "apartheid is no longer the policy of the national party."

If Vlok was speaking the truth, said Morobe, then the defiance campaign would only be of help.

Capitalism too has social challenges to confront

By Flora Lewis

PARIS — Reviving a damaged, stultified society is a Herculean task. Revolutionaries thought they had a shortcut formula — take power, give orders, enforce them. The striking phenomenon as the 20th century nears its end is the new demonstration that this formula doesn't work.

It has long been recognised that power corrupts. What the totalitarian countries are only coming to see is how much it corrodes the very capacity to shift to the more difficult but ultimately more effective road of reform. Dispensing power without provoking chaos that will bring some new dictatorship turns out to be harder than it amassing it.

Mikhail Gorbachev has already been driven a great deal further than he ever imagined would be necessary when he set out to inject a little verve into his economy. Compare what he is doing now with the programme he laid down at the 1986 party congress, just over three years ago.

Then his idea of vigorous reform was to develop technology.

cut back alcohol and introduce a little slack in the tight system of central planning and farm collectives.

He has had to accept strikes, ethnic upheavals, exposure of old lies — and perestroika has not yet begun to produce. There is still a much longer way to go, and many unforeseen perils.

The surprise is that he plunges on — with challenges, to be sure, but with enough support to keep heading for the goal.

China's Deng Xiaoping audaciously set out on market reforms a decade ago. They worked stunningly up to a point. But the market wasn't really freed, only at the margins. Remaining controls inevitably brought corruption and demands for political reform.

That was too much for him, and he thought he could set clear limits with repression. Now China is sliding backward on its economic opening, with new constraints on foreign enterprises. Everything will slow down. Hard-earned expertise is lost as students abroad decline to go home.

Still, the direction has been set

and the conclusion is clear. Marxism-Leninism as it has been practiced is reaching the end of the road. Whatever the dangers of geopolitics, there is no longer a Communist threat to the rest of the world.

As John Lloyd says, writing in the Financial Times, the various Communist countries seeking to create a market economy may have made "the Faustian bargain with the market, and it cannot be delivered." They are facing the capitalist woes of unemployment, huge dislocation, inequalities, rampant inflation, which their people may simply refuse to tolerate in return for yet another promise for some distant day — reasonable prosperity.

This is because the revolutionary ideals of social justice still have a powerful hold, and because they were partially realised. The system proved incapable of burying capitalism or even raising living standards, but its rules were known if not loved." Mr. Lloyd points out. "It provided security for people who had never known such a feeling." And, despite the terrors, it provided stan-

dards of social decency and honour in work, even the lowest.

Such goals have not been abandoned — and not in Western societies, either. They are still capable of moving people.

America is producing not only youth with inferior education and desire to learn; it is producing crack babies who may be ineducable because of birth defects. It is producing homeless who live on park benches and streets in the midst

If there is a danger in the possibility of Soviet success, which some conservatives dwell upon, it comes not from the strengths of their society but from the weaknesses of ours, a new comparison which may be looming down the road. Capitalism and freedom have overcome, but not in pure triumph. The next round of competition is likely once again to be a society race, and not this time against a provably false utopia. Capitalism hasn't enough laurels to rest on. The scourge of drugs should suggest much more than inadequate law enforcement, greed, failed

family responsibility. It has to mean that there is something missing, something that society is failing to provide in its basic promise of community.

America is producing not only

the ideals haven't changed; neither have they been achieved. America has the capacity and the social system to do better. That won't be enough. It, too, has to deliver — The New York Times.



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EVERY DAY

Journalists under attack

Journalist Hugo Bustos Saavedra was killed in the Peruvian Andes in November 1988.

Hugo Bustos, who was based in Huanta, the capital of Ayacucho province, was a correspondent for the weekly magazine *Caretas*. He was killed while investigating the murder of a woman and her son, allegedly by Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path) guerrillas.

Hugo Bustos was travelling to the scene of the murder with a colleague, Eduardo Rojas Arce. The journalists were on a quiet country road near Huanta when they passed a Civil Guard patrol; a few minutes later four masked men opened fire on them from bushes beside the track. Hugo Bustos called out: "Run for it. It isn't the Senderistas." Although wounded, Eduardo Rojas managed to escape and he saw the masked men placing explosives on Hugo Bustos's body.

The army maintained that the journalists were attacked by "terrorists" but Eduardo Rojas is convinced that the army itself was responsible for the killing. Other witnesses, who were detained and threatened by the local army garrison after their testimonies and photographs appeared in the national press, agree with Eduardo Rojas. The army knew of the journalists' movements; the local garrison had refused them permission to visit the scene of the crime three times before finally agreeing.

Despite such evidence neither civilian nor armed forces authorities are known to have instituted high-level inquiries into the affair.

The province of Ayacucho was placed under military control in December 1982 as a measure to combat Sendero Luminoso. At the time of Hugo Bustos's death he was the only representative of the national news media still working in Huanta. He had written several articles criticising the army for human rights abuses and had received death threats.

In many areas of Peru investigators and critics of army abuses have been the targets of death threats, bombings and political killings. Hundreds of Peruvians — including several journalists — are believed to have been killed by members of the security forces. In none of these cases have the killers been brought to justice.

Peru is not the only country in which journalists have risked their lives and liberty to publish information their governments prefer to conceal.

Chadian journalist Saleh Gaba is believed to have died in secret detention in mid-1988, although his death has never been officially acknowledged.

A correspondent for Agence France Presse and Associated Press news agencies, Saleh Gaba had written a number of articles which the Chadian government considered critical of presidential policies.

Saleh Gaba had been arrested in 1981 and in 1984 because of his work; on neither occasion was he charged. He was detained again in June 1987 — after several months in hiding to avoid arrest — and accused of being the author of a handwritten document announcing that an opposition organisation known as *Mosanat* had been formed among the Hadjerai, an ethnic group of which he was a member. Again no charges were brought against him.

Since Saleh Gaba's death last year Amnesty International (AI) has received another document from *Mosanat* — it had been written in the same hand, apparently after his death.

In many countries governments have attempted to silence journalists by imprisoning them or threatening them with imprisonment. AI has investigated cases of human rights abuses against journalists all over the world, many of whom are or may be prisoners of conscience jailed because of their professional activities or for exercising their right to freedom of expression.

Many governments have resorted to distortion, deception and disinformation to conceal human rights violations. In some countries journalists attempting to report abuses have been imprisoned.

Beden Mbugua was the editor of *Beyond*, produced by the National Christian Council of Kenya. The publication was banned last year after Mbugua had published articles critical of Kenya's human rights record. He was charged with failing to submit annual sales returns to the Registrar of Books and Newspapers and was prosecuted. In August 1988 he was sentenced to nine months' imprisonment, although he was released pending appeal.

Fatma Yazici, editor-in-chief of the Turkish weekly journal *2000 Dogru* (Towards 2000), has been on trial since January 1987, charged with some 40 offences relating to articles published in the journal. So far she has been sentenced on three of the charges to over eight years' imprisonment, more than six years of

imprisonment, part of which was imposed for producing a journal calling for political change. Wei Jingsheng, a fellow campaigner who among other activities edited a magazine calling for democracy, was also sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment for "counter-revolutionary activities."

In December 1988 Soviet journalist Sergey Kuznetsov was arrested in the city of Sverdlovsk. He was accused of "defamation" in his unofficial journal *The Courier of Glasnost* (openness). Sergey Kuznetsov had reportedly been harassed in the months before his arrest; in November 1988 police reportedly broke down the door of his flat and confiscated literature, letters and tapes.

Sergey Kuznetsov claims that he was beaten in police custody — a claim supported by a doctor who examined him shortly after the alleged abuse.

When his trial opened in April 1989 Sergey Kuznetsov and his defence lawyer refused to take part after the court ejected his wife for refusing to give evidence. The hearing was abandoned and Sergey Kuznetsov was sent to a centre for psychiatric examination. In the past scores of Soviet prisoners of conscience have been held against their will in psychiatric hospitals after being examined at this centre.

Journalists working in countries where governments face civil unrest have been particular targets for the authorities. During the numerous anti-government, pro-democracy demonstrations in Burma in 1988 the local Associated Press correspondent U Sein Win sent several reports to his agency. Colleagues described these as "independent and objective."

In the course of his work U Sein Win interviewed a former political leader and friend, Brigadier General Aung Gyi, who had criticised what he described as the government's economic mismanagement and the brutality of action taken against unarmed protesters in which thousands were shot dead or wounded by the army. U Sein Win was arrested and held for nearly a month, as were Aung Gyi and a number of his political associates.

In 1963 U Sein Win had been awarded the Golden Pen of Freedom prize by the International Federation of Newspaper Publishers for his work in fostering a free press but it was not until May of that year that he was allowed to leave Burma to collect his prize.

Since the beginning of the Palestinian *intifada* (uprising) in the West Bank and Gaza in December 1987 Palestinian journalists in Israel and the occupied territories have been placed under administrative detention orders — usually issued for six months but renewable — apparently because of articles they have written about the *intifada*.

Those detained include Rabbia Al 'Arudi, who until the time of his arrest in February 1988 worked for the Arabic edition of the newspaper *Derech Hanitzotz/Tarq Al Sharara*. Later four Israeli Jewish editors on the paper were arrested and the paper's licence was revoked.

Rabbia Al 'Arudi was held until August 1988; in January 1989 the four other editors were sentenced to up to 30 months' imprisonment on charges which included "providing service for a forbidden association." It was alleged that their newspaper had been funded by the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Brian Sokut, a freelance journalist in South Africa, was arrested in June 1986. He was detained without trial for nearly three years under State of Emergency regulations.

Before his arrest he had been sent by the Eastern Province Herald to report a memorial service for the former general secretary of the South African Communist Party. The police maintained that the service was an illegal gathering and demanded his notes and photographs which they said were required for evidence. The newspaper was later subpoenaed to produce his notes. Brian Sokut was released in March 1989 but placed under restrictions.

Another journalist detained under South Africa's State of Emergency regulations was Zwelethu Sisulu, editor of *The New Nation*. He was held without charge or trial for two years until December 1988; he was then released but was placed under such severe restrictions that he was unable to return to his job.

Journalists who work for publications of political parties, movements and trade union organisations, or for publications aligned with them, have also been detained without trial or sent to prison.

In China dozens of supporters of the democracy movement of the late 1970s were imprisoned in connection with periodicals they had produced or to which they had contributed.

Xu Weili was arrested in 1981 and later sentenced to 15 years'

imprisonment, part of which was imposed for producing a journal calling for political change. Wei Jingsheng, a fellow campaigner who among other activities edited a magazine calling for democracy, was also sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment for "counter-revolutionary activities."

Both spent long periods confined in harsh conditions, segregated from fellow prisoners. Xu Weili has not been allowed to see his wife or daughter for over three years. Both men are reported to be in poor health.

Femi Aborisse is the editor of *Labour Militant*, a socialist newspaper in Nigeria. He was arrested in February 1989 by officers of the State Security Service and taken to their headquarters in Lagos; in mid-June he was reportedly being held incommunicado without access to his lawyer or his family. He was believed to be detained under the State Security Decree, which denies the courts any power to question such detentions.

No reason has been given for Femi Aborisse's detention. However last October his newspaper called for the release of imprisoned trade unionists among whom were bank workers' leaders detained without charge.

Zumun Celaj was accused of "disseminating false information." He was held for almost a month and investigated under Article 188 (2) of Kosovo's criminal code; during this period he was dismissed from his job by *Kilindja*'s disciplinary commission. The charges against him were then dropped and he was released.

Over the last few years journalists in Chile have frequently suffered abuse in the course of their work. Those reporting or photographing demonstrations have been brutally beaten by police or

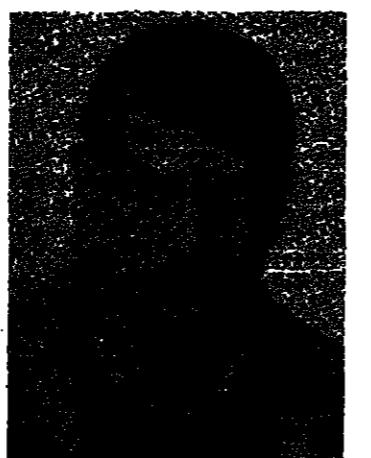


Hugo Bustos at work in the Peruvian Andes. He was killed by men believed to be members of the Peruvian Army

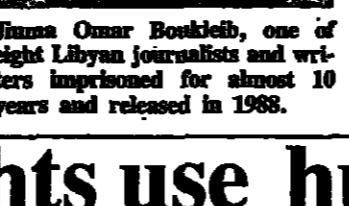
their civilian agents. Journalists have been prosecuted for offending the armed forces and some cases imprisoned for short periods because they had written articles criticising the army's policies.

Juan Pablo Cárdenas, the editor of the weekly opposition magazine *Analisis*, was held each night in prison for almost 18 months for "insulting the president." He was released from night imprisonment in December 1988 but must report to the authorities once a month. Some 18 journalists still face prosecution by Chile's military tribunals.

The rights to freedom of expression, freedom of association and freedom of belief are enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and, in legal form, in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). The ICCPR has been ratified in many of the countries in which journalists have been the victims of human rights violations. Governments which deny civil and political rights to journalists flout international law and often flout their own constitutions.



Rabbia Al 'Arudi, detained by the Israeli authorities in 1988. Four of her colleagues received prison sentences



Juan Omar Bokleib, one of eight Libyan journalists and writers imprisoned for almost 10 years and released in 1988.

Playwrights use humour in play about Mideast

By Paul Ben-Itzak
Reuter

SAN FRANCISCO — When the San Francisco Mime troupe decides to spoof a hot international topic, no subject is too serious for its satire — not even Israeli-Palestinian strife.

Those detained include Rabbia Al 'Arudi, who until the time of his arrest in February 1988 worked for the Arabic edition of the newspaper *Derech Hanitzotz/Tarq Al Sharara*. Later four Israeli Jewish editors on the paper were arrested and the paper's licence was revoked.

Rabbia Al 'Arudi was held until August 1988; in January 1989 the four other editors were sentenced to up to 30 months' imprisonment on charges which included "providing service for a forbidden association." It was alleged that their newspaper had been funded by the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

The musical is a mistaken-identity farce that makes fun of the various factions in Israel and advocates a two-state solution to strife between the two sides.

In the troupe's production, Salim Razali, a Palestinian American, journeys to Israel with a deed proving that his West Bank cousins own land on which their house sits, hoping to stop an Israeli plan to demolish the house and evict the Razalis.

At the same time, David Goldberg, a Jewish American, is bringing his militant settler relatives a computer diagram supporting their biblical claim to the same land. A black actor, Michael Sullivan, plays both Salim and David.

Mime troupe head writer Joan Holden, working with Israeli director Sinai Peter, Palestinian-American comedienne Emily Shihadeh and other Jewish and Arab writers, has created "Seeing Double."

The musical is a mistaken-identity farce that makes fun of the various factions in Israel and advocates a two-state solution to strife between the two sides.

The Arab and Jewish authors agreed the play could not have

been written before the Palestine Liberation Organisation's peace overtures last year, a move that advanced the idea of a two-state solution.

They also agreed that the play had to be a comedy. Peter said: "The Mime troupe — which has satirised everything from apartheid to corporate greed — was a perfect vehicle for such a musical."

One of them, Japanese-American actress Keiko Shimamoto played the radical from Berkeley, Salim's grandmother, a militant Jewish settler's daughter and a Palestinian boy arrested for throwing stones at troops.

The playwrights were challenged to balance their dual roles as comedy writers and portrayers of the people's respective points of view.

Verdict on the times: "Life has become better, comrades, life has become more merry."

It is this last role that draws the biggest crowds, with people jamming together six deep in front of a map of Stalin's vast system of labour camps or gulags, which was largely dismantled and its victims rehabilitated under Khrushchev.

People scribble notes, study the trumped-up charges, and read the government pardons which often came too late.

Across the opposite wall, past a section of barbed-wire fencing dotted with day-old flowers left by visitors, a smiling Stalin in full marshal's uniform delivers his

begin examining why he fell."

After agreeing on the basic idea for the play, the writers discovered they had many disagreements. "We had many screaming arguments," said Holden.

Peter said each of the writers wrote jokes from his own tradition. The Jewish playwrights wrote lines for the Jewish characters, and the Palestinian and Arab-American authors were responsible for their characters.

"The general agreement we made was to be honest about our shortcomings," Holden said.

"That Israelis see Israelis honestly, and Palestinians see Palestinians honestly — their shortcomings... you can't trust someone who holds back."

Peter said the writer tried not to dwell on the history of the Palestinian-Israeli discord but instead focused on the issues of

survival and the future.

"The play at times seems overburdened with points of view, and Holden has pledged to hone it so that it puts a greater emphasis on comedy, such as this 'settler's rap' performed by Jewish militants:

"I come from Brooklyn and I wear a funny hat, And that's where I learned not to take no crap."

It says love thy neighbour in the holy book

But it also says gotta have a good right hook."

In the end, Salim and David — this time performed by puppets — meet in the Razalis's home.

Seconds after they timidly shake hands, the house is demolished when a bomb accidentally detonates. Keeping with the theme of mistaken identity, one is killed — but the audience is not told which one.

Khrushchev once again stalking Soviet political landscape

By Jonathan Lyons
Reuter

MOSCOW — The spectre of Nikita Khrushchev is stalking the Soviet Union, bolstering the assaults on the bloody legacy of dictator Josef Stalin and the "period of stagnation" under Leonid Brezhnev.

His memoirs — long available in the West — are at last being published in his own country, 15 years after his death.

And each day in August queues snake along outside Moscow's House of Youth for the first major Soviet exhibition on his 10 years in power, 1954-1964.

But what gives the exhibition, "Khrushchev: Those 10 years,"

whose career ended when he was unceremoniously dumped by his colleagues in the Soviet leadership, is now enjoying something of a vogue.

The exhibition, set up by a group of young historians, reveals that there were many Khrushchevs, each one captured brilliantly in a broad range of dramatic photographs.

There is Khrushchev as leader of a great power, greeting heads of state, touring the United States, rallying the people. Or Khrushchev the ceremonial figure, welcoming home the first man in space, reviewing the troops in Red Square.

But what gives the exhibition,

verdict on the times: "Life has become better, comrades, life has become more merry."

Nearby, a collage of Lenin, his slanting eyes fixed on the viewer, blends into a picture of "Uncle Joe," estimated to have killed 20 million people.

Vladimir Ustinov, a small bent-backed man with a mouthful of teeth ruined in one of Stalin's camps, peered as if looking in a mirror at the official prison photographs of the condemned men in the gulags.

"I was there. And now I'm here," he said to no one in particular. "Khrushchev did a lot of good. I owe him my life."

Such a view is only now coming

to the fore, as an entire society appears to be reassessing a man who, after his demise, was reviled at home.

In the Soviet Union, where history often involves some sleight of hand, the one-time non-person is making a decisive comeback as part of a broad attack against "Stalinist apparatchiks" and "Brezhnevite obstructionists."

His "secret speech" denouncing Stalin, delivered to the 20th communist party congress in 1956, was finally published here this spring.

And in April, 2,000 people marking the 95th anniversary of the birth heard gulag survivors

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Bankingmarket: Two words that need separation

By a Jordan Times

Staff writer

"DON'T BITE the hand that's feeding you," goes the proverb.

Swallowing the time-proven wisdom of the saying, which I was told to understand well 21 years ago, when I flunked a political test, I swore then not to be forced into any indiscretions again. But, taking economy now and seeing ripe targets, I feel encouraged to savor some banks which are fit enough and deserve some "special fitness course" as their orthodox, anti-national practices are adversely affecting a large segment of the Jordanian population.

Two years ago, an employee

friend of mine was trapped in a cash bind but was rescued when he received a personal loan of sixfolds his monthly salary from Bank A. The credit was repayable over a period of 24 months. The security of the loan was the monthly salary transfer to the bank and the signature of two guarantors on the necessary documentation.

Few months later, discovering that banking needed shopping, the young man checked with Bank B and found out that personal loans there were eightfolds the monthly salary with the same repayment and guarantee terms.

Realising that completion was fierce in the "banking market" for the unsavvy and primitive way of lending, he

contacted Bank C and, good grief, shook his head in disbelief.

At Bank C, the manager offered him tenfolds the monthly wage and without any change in the credit terms of banks A and B.

Furious for being fooled, my friend hastened to Bank A but the "boot" he was planning to stage did not materialise because he was greeted by the news that the ceiling of personal loans was recently raised to eightfolds.

Under the circumstances, there was no alternative for the poor creature but to ask Bank A to reschedule his outstanding debt and demand more cash under the new ceiling.

Unlike International Monet-

ary Fund or World Bank procedures, the requests were happily and quickly met because, probably, the bank sensed some risk in the employee's "feasibility study" despite a non-risky history.

The readers who felt sorry for the troubles of my friend need not worry today because he is now an expert in the banking trade knowing the tricks of not only personal loans but also those of overdrafts and discount bills. He tells me of the ins and outs of rescheduling in terms of tenure, changing names, guarantee reciprocity and most importantly, the valuable asset of "a manager friendship."

The latest news, he told me few days ago, was that Bank D was suffering from the low volume of lucrative profitable business in letters of credits and that the bank has imposed a flat fee of JD 1.5 every six months on all salary transfers. He noted that the amount was negligible not to alarm the central bank and at the same time to benefit more from the flourishing personal loan transactions.

Concentrating on the personal loans is just the tip of the iceberg of the reforms needed in the banking market to be in line with the national efforts to correct Jordan's economic image.

Raising interest rates, imposing additional charges and tightening repayment and security terms are not enough because rich or middle class

citizens are resorting to personal loans to cushion themselves against hardships although the move is nothing more than postponing the day of reckoning for each family head, including myself.

The temporary financial relief that I and many people are seeking nowadays serves very well the process of hoarding all kinds of items, deepest the social struggle of showing off ability to maintain "status" and heightens fears of uncontrollable price rises of essential commodities.

No-one rules out continuing inflation; but banks, by extending competitive facilities for personal loans, are really making things worse.

Indicating the trend are the

terms of auction announcements, placed by banks in every issue of the Arabic dailies, offering hypothecated property of delinquent borrowers.

Contrasting the two above-mentioned activities, it is crystal clear that there is something wrong somewhere.

Why were the bankers recently demanding the creation of a secondary real estate market?

The request obviously hinges on the "untenable" volume of real estate security that the banks hold and on the increasing number of auctions to settle "rotten accounts" noting that if a bank auctions a borrower's property, the move comes after an average of three years of persuasion to settle the dues

peaceably.

Hence, with an obvious aversion of banks to high risks of agricultural and industrial lending, primitive and non-viable personal lending gained strength behind windows of automated teller machines (ATMs) and went to meet advanced computers symbolising high Jordanian banking technology.

Banking is the art of attracting deposits and, more profitably, the fine art of lending within the framework of trust, honesty and integrity and if the majority of Jordanian banks bank solely on profit regardless of national aspirations or high selectivity of prioritisation, then there is no choice but to keep banking a market.

India agrees to buy more Jordan potash

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Arab Potash Company (APC) has concluded a deal to sell India half a million tonnes of potash over the coming three years (1990-1992).

A report in Al Ra'i Arabic daily said also that the APC has come to an agreement to supply India with 200,000 tonnes of potash in the second half of this year to raise the total amount of Jordanian potash exported to India to 500,000 tonnes this year.

India is the largest importer of Jordanian potash and with the new deals, which were signed in New Delhi, Jordan will have sold 1.35 million tonnes of potash to the Indian nation according to Dr. Wanas Hindawi, director of APC's marketing department.

He said that the conclusion of the latest agreement took place during an APC delegation's visit to India headed by the company's Director General Ali Nsour.

Israel, USSR create first joint enterprise

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel's agriculture ministry and the Soviet Academy of Sciences have signed an agreement to create a joint agricultural company, officials said Sunday.

The announcement carried by Israel radio comes one day after the Soviet news agency TASS reported the two countries had agreed on their first joint venture, which will make medical equipment.

Azram Olmert, director of the government-run Agrideb Company, expressed hope that new farm sector company, Agromit, would help solve the Soviet food crisis.

The Soviet Union cut diplomatic ties with Israel in 1967 to protest Israeli occupation of Arab territories but cultural and tourism exchanges have expanded since the two countries exchanged interest offices in 1987 and 1988.

Olmert told Israel radio that Israel's advanced agricultural technology contributed to the Soviet desire "to cooperate on a concrete, business basis, without any political implications."

"I'm not saying that we will solve the Soviet problems, but our joint impression is that we can contribute to this," he said.

The radio reported that the agreement was signed Saturday at the end of a 12-day visit by a five-member delegation from the Soviet Academy of Sciences, which surveyed Israeli agricultural techniques.

Israel radio said Olmert would travel to Moscow in September, to be followed by other Israeli specialists in October.

The daily Hadashot newspaper said the Soviets will import farm and dairy equipment from Israel, as well as 200 cows. It also said Agromit would also create a crop and poultry farm near Moscow.

EMBASSY OF INDIA, AMMAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

On the occasion of India's Independence Day a flag-hoisting ceremony will take place on Tuesday, Aug. 15, 1989, at 9:00 a.m. at the Embassy of India, First Circle, Jabal Amman. All Indian nationals are cordially invited to participate in the ceremony.

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE MINISTRY OF WATER AND IRRIGATION/WATER AUTHORITY INVITATION FOR PARTIAL REBIDDING CONTRACT NO. 09/89/ME

Date: 13.08.1989
Loan No.: 2694 JO
IFB No.: 09/89/ME

- The Water Authority of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has received a loan from the World Bank in various currencies towards the cost of the Water and Sewerage Project and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contracts for the purchase of Horizontal Pumps, Cables, and Riser Pipes.
- The Water Authority now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply of Horizontal Pumps, Cables and Riser Pipes.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the documents at the office of the Secretary General of the Water Authority, Shmeisani, P.O. Box 2412, Amman, Jordan. Telephone 680100, Telex 22439 JO.
- A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by any eligible bidder on submission of a written application to the above address and the payment of non-refundable fee of JD 200.
- All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the amount(s) specified in Section V Schedule of Requirements, and must be delivered to the above office not later than 12:00 hours, Jordan local time, Saturday, 09/09/1989.

Eng. Mutazz Belbeisi
Secretary General
Water Authority



Hassan Ibrahim

CAEU chief expects firmer Arab ties through ACC

AMMAN (Petra) — Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) Secretary-General Hassan Ibrahim Sunday described the formation of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) and other groupings of Arab states as a constructive step towards economic and trade integration within the Arab World.

The leaders of countries involved in these groupings and blocs have explicitly declared their intention of bolstering inter-Arab trade within the context of the Arab common market, Ibrahim said in a statement on the CEAU's 25th anniversary Sunday.

Ibrahim said that the Arab common market aims to free all national products from all kinds of taxes and fees and remove all restrictions that have been impeding trade among Arab states.

Referring to CEAU's programmes and activities, Ibrahim said that they all aim at bolstering trade and economic links among Arab states and encourage joint ventures that would lead to full integration.

The birth of the economic unity among Arab states in 1964 came in response to Arab aspirations for unity, Ibrahim added.

Ibrahim urged Arab states to contribute most effectively towards bolstering the Arab economic unity which aims to ensure the easy flow of goods and capital from one Arab state to another.

"(The reductions) create the conditions to boost production, to crum the silos and to fill the central bank's reserves with hard currency," he said.

"We need a substantial increase in the sown area for the current crop. The dare is to cover an (acreage) at least 20 per cent larger than the previous crops," he declared.

Trade sources said farmers had planned to sow some 10 million acres for the 1989/90 coarse grain's crop, roughly the same as last year.

Farm leaders have complained the real exchange rate paid to producers and traders, after export duties and other taxes are deducted, do not offer incentives to increase output.

"The prices (farmers are paid) will not allow them to sow in many areas and will bar them

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Sunday, August 13, 1989		Central Bank official rates		
Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	585.2	591.2	412.6	416.7
Pound Sterling	952.0	942.3	267.9	270.6
Deutschmark	301.7	304.7	89.0	89.9
Swiss franc	349.8	353.3	42.0	42.4
French franc	89.4	90.3	144.1	145.5

Peronist leader urges farmers to reshape economy

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Argentine President Carlos Menem urged the country's farmers to help his new government revive the hyperinflation-stricken economy.

"Help me change the Argentine economy and put it back on its feet... to defeat the humiliation, the slap in our face (symbolised) by the fact there are millions of Argentines who go hungry and can't satisfy their basic needs in the land of wheat and cattle," he told a farm fair in a televised speech.

The Peronist leader, who took office July 8 and inherited a severe economic crisis, was cheered on by thousands of spectators.

In the speech, first by a Peronist president at such a fair in 46 years, Menem announced cuts in export duties on farm products and urged farmers to grow more

from using adequate technologies, thus lowering yield," said Guillermo Alchouron, president of the Argentine Rural Society, the grouping of cattlemen that organised the fair, in a speech before Menem's.

The export duties, which vary

from 30 per cent to 44 per cent, would be lowered by up to 28 percentage points for shipments of the 1989/90 coarse grain crops and other farm products, Menem

said.

The Peronist government hopes the farm and oil industries will lead an export-driven recovery from the soaring inflation that saw consumer prices rise a record 196.6 per cent in July alone, up from June's 114.5 per cent and May's 78.5 per cent.

"A strong increase in agricultural output is the sign others need to see from farmers to recover the confidence they seem to have

lost," agriculture, livestock and fisheries secretary Felipe Sola said.

Farm and industry leaders have backed Menem's plans to reduce a massive public sector deficit by suspending subsidies to the private sector, privatising state-owned companies and deregulating sectors of the economy nationalised by party founder Juan Peron in the late 1940s and early '50s.

Many private economists believe the outlook for the Philippine economy is not altogether gloomy. The economy grew by more than five per cent in 1988 and is expected to increase this year by six per cent.

Agriculture, the source of livelihood for more than 60 per cent of the 58 million Filipinos, grew by more than 10 per cent.

"The garment comes alive when the public reacts to price increases," Benigno wrote in the Philippine daily Star, a pro-Communist newspaper.

Public school teachers and other government employees already have been agitating for salary increases which Aquino says the nation cannot afford.

"There's no money," wrote columnist Conrado De Quiros in the Philippine daily Globe newspaper.

The government acknowledges that the poorest third of society receives only nine per cent of the national income, virtually no change from the final years of Marcos' rule.

In Parts of Manila, elegant department stores rivaling those of New York and London stand within a few kilometres of wretched squatter camps, where tens of thousands live in clapboard shanties.

Industrial nations have pledged \$3.5 billion in 1990 to help the Philippine economy. But the government acknowledges that the effects of the aid may not be seen by ordinary Filipinos for years.

Under a controversial policy memorandum to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the government agreed to a number of economic austerity measures, including gradually eliminating subsidies on rice, energy, water and other essentials.

That will reduce the budget deficit but is expected to increase consumer prices. The government also is studying an increase in fuel prices. They may be raised by the end of the year depending on the world petroleum market.

During a recent strike by government workers, employees of the central bank carried banners denouncing the IMF and calling for reductions in payments on the country's foreign debt.

Economic planning secretary Sofita Monsod, a respected economics professor, resigned last June after warning that the government's economic policies could lead to social unrest.

Auto imports, which make up about 17.2 per cent of Japan's exports, fell 8.5 per cent with the United States and 6.1 per cent with the European Community, said Iwaki.

Overall car exports fell by 6.3 per cent to \$3.21 billion.

Economists also blamed softer demand in the United States for a 4.2 per cent fall in video tape recorders and sluggish growth in electrical machinery.

"Electrical machinery has seen a significant inventory buildup in the first quarter," said David Pike, economist at UBS Phillips and Drew International.

"This is likely to result in a further depression of exports in the coming months," Pike said.

Japanese exports to the United States grew only 1.3 per cent in July, compared with exports to Asia which rose 5.7 per cent and exports with newly industrialised Asian countries which expanded 4.7 per cent, analysts noted.

Meanwhile, Japanese domestic car sales rose 26.5 per cent in June and 34 per cent in May, said Iwaki. Automakers have had to divert output to the booming domestic market.

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Sports

Redskins and Eagles win pre-season games

NEW YORK (AP) — The Washington Redskins and Philadelphia Eagles, rivals in the Eastern division of the NFL's national conference, won their second consecutive preseason games Saturday night.

Joe Mickles six-yard run with 5:32 remaining capped an 87-yard drive directed by reserve quarterback Stan Humphries as the Redskins beat the Pittsburgh Steelers 21-14.

Don McPherson threw two fourth-quarter touchdown passes and led the Eagles over the Atlanta Falcons 23-17.

The first full weekend of the NFL's exhibition season was highlighted by 10 games Saturday. It was San Francisco 37, Los Angeles Raiders 7; Green Bay 28, New York Jets 27; New York Giants 20, New England 17; Tampa Bay 41, Houston 23; Cleveland 25, Detroit 24; Indianapolis 31, New Orleans 7; Minnesota 23, Kansas City 13; and Denver 17, Los Angeles Rams 13.

49ers 37, Raiders 7

Terrence Flager ran for 116 yards and two touchdowns as San Francisco's supplier bowl champions scored four times in the first 21 minutes over the Raiders.

Packers 28, Jets 17

Sterling Sharpe turned a short pass from Anthony Dilweg into a go-ahead 49-yard touchdown late in the third quarter. The Jets had a chance to win in the last minute, but Pat Leahy missed a 44-yard field goal try.

Giants 20, Patriots 17

Jeff Hostetler and Mike Perez

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
1989 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

TWO FOR ONE SWAP IS GOOD BUSINESS

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

* Q 6 4

7 6

A K 6 4 3

* 5 4 2

WEST

J 7 3

* 8 4

J 9 5

* Q J 10 9 6

* 8 7 3

SOUTH

A 8 2

A K Q J 10 9 5 2

Void

A K

The bidding:

South West North East
2 ♠ Pass 3 Pass
6 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♦.

Here's a little pose of a different sort for you. Declarer made exactly six hearts on this hand. What card took the defenders' trick, and when did they get it?

North's jump to three diamonds over South's strong, artificial two-club opening showed a five-card suit headed by at least two of the three top honors. That was not exactly music to South's ears, but with 11 tricks in hand, his jump to slam was not only justified, but warned North that he should not go on unless he had a prime card outside the

diamond suit.

A cursory examination of the full hand might suggest that declarer will have to rely on the location of the king of spades for his contract. That, however, is an optical illusion—it does not take into account the key feature of North's hand: his trump holding!

Dummy's 7 o. of trumps are equals with the 8. So go to the top of the class if your answers to the questions posed in the opening paragraph were the eight of trumps at trick two!

Let's see how the play develops. Declarer wins one of his club honors and has a low trump from hand. If West does not go up with the eight, dummy's six will win, so, assume that after taking the eight West does best by shifting to a spade. But it is too late! Declarer wins the ace, gets to the table by leading his remaining low trump to the seven, and then takes two spade discards on the ace-king of diamonds.

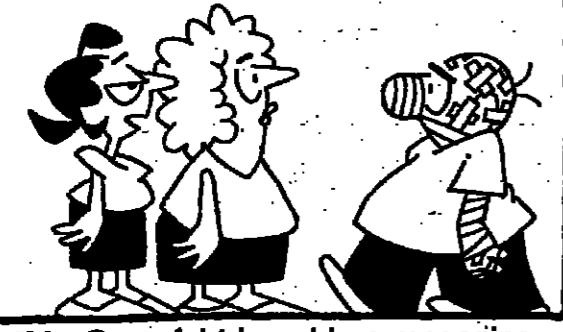
Not all that difficult: Just a simple lesson in the power of spotcards.

For information about Charles Goren's newsletter for bridge players, write Goren Bridge Letter, P.O. Box 4426, Orlando, Fla. 32802-4426.

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris

HARRIS



JUMBLE

IN THAT SCRABLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Compare that with the life you force ME to live.

FECAH

NAYDD

LEMWID

DAPOAG

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answers tomorrow.

Yesterday's Jumble: COWER BLAZE WIDEST FACIAL

Answer: In Wall Street, an-called "good buyer" sometimes turn out to be this—FAREWELL

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Egypt Defeats Malawi, 1-0: Egypt used a powerful first-half goal by Hisham Abdel-Rasoul and an offside call that cancelled Malawi's would-be tying goal Saturday night for a 1-0 home victory in a second-round qualifying match in African zone B World Cup soccer. The victory gave Egypt the leadership in the zonal tournament with six points. Kenya and Liberia have five each and Malawi four. Heartened by news of Kenya's 1-0 conquest of Liberia, which set the stage for an Aug. 26 championship showdown with the Kenyans, Egypt employed a dominating defense to keep Malawi's scorers in check during a fast first half. Egypt's goal came in the 28th minute when midfielder Abdel-Rasoul fired a shot off his left foot from 25 yards (metres) out to the left of Malawian goalkeeper Donex Gondwe. Abdel-Rasoul also scored Egypt's only goal in the two teams' first zone match this year, a 1-1 first-round draw Jan. 21 in the Malawi capital Lilongwe. (AP)

KASPAROV BEATS KORCHNOI IN CHESS WORLD CUP: Soviet world champion Garry Kasparov defeated Viktor Korchnoi in just 23 moves in the opening round of the World Cup chess tournament in Skelleftea, Sweden, Saturday evening. The tournament is the final competition in a series in which 16 of the world's top players play each other. Kasparov led the overall standings as the tournament began, 2.5 points ahead of his main rival, former world champion Anatoly Karpov. They were due to meet in round two. Karpov drew against Hungarian Gyula Sax in the first round. (R)

SOVIET STUDENT WINS MOSCOW MARATHON: A Soviet student won the ninth Moscow marathon Saturday, running the 42-kilometre (26-mile) scenic course along the Moscow river in two hours, 23 minutes and seven seconds, TASS reported. Sergei Kozlov, from the Byelorussian capital of Minsk, beat more than 11,000 runners from 40 countries. TASS said that among the highlights of the race was an entire family of runners, the Kharlamovs, consisting of father, mother, a 14-year-old son, an 11-year-old son and 6-year-old daughter, Tanya. For the first time, handicapped people, including those in wheelchairs, also completed in the marathon, TASS said. (AP)

AUSTRALIA SKI EVENT HAILED AS A SUCCESS: The head of the International Ski Federation said Sunday there is "a very good chance," that the World Cup circuit could return in two years to Australia after its first series down under. "We won't be discussing the 1990-91 season schedule until next May," International Ski Federation president March Hodder said Sunday. Australia's first World Cup races, a giant slalom Friday and a slalom Saturday were held at the snowy mountains resort of Thredbo. Lars-Boerje Eriksson of Sweden won the giant slalom and Armin Bittner of West Germany the slalom in the first races of the 1989-90 season. "It was an excellent event," said Hodder, who added that Australian facilities and ski courses have proved themselves for top competition. Nonetheless, next year's early season events would likely be held in Argentina or Chile, in keeping with the usual rotating schedule. (AP)

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, AUGUST 14, 1989

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE
by Thomas Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: When Venus is in a pleasant aspect to the moon, a feeling of security and success can color the day. Having faith in yourself and others has a calming effect and makes us think holding!

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Enthusiasm gives you a good teacher. You can feel optimistic over the outcome of a recent financial adventure.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) A rather dull day can end up in boredom. Even so, your peaceful demeanor and natural charm is infectious to others.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You are capable of giving someone some tender loving care, but be cautious unless you are ready to get hooked. Romance can be a concern.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Details at work, the ones that have been put aside, need to be cleaned up. You feel best when your work is organized and finished.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 23) There are favorable aspects that can bring luck and prosperity to your financial life. Be the focus for a planned family reunion.

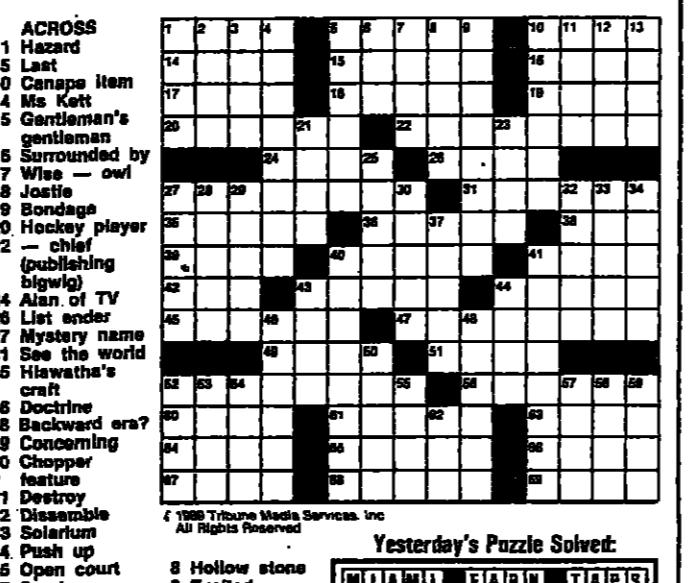
VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Do not let little things escalate because of neglect. Stay mentally alert. Turn to your social life as a source of joy.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Believing in yourself is the first requirement to accepting others. This

"The Stars impel: they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

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THE Daily Crossword



Azerbaijanis escalate defiance

BAKU, Soviet Union (R) — Azerbaijan's Popular Front has called a one-day strike for Monday and a general strike, probably in September, to back its demand for greater autonomy for the southern Soviet republic.

The strike call came after 80,000 Azerbaijanis demonstrated in Baku's central square Saturday in support of the front and threatening a series of stoppages which could halt the region's vital oil production.

The front wants legal recognition, the recall of Azerbaijani deputies from the Soviet parliament, where it says they fail to represent local interests, and an end to what amounts to military rule clamped on the area to stop ethnic violence.

The protesters also sought assurances of control over the

disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh and the release of those arrested in demonstrations demanding that the largely Armenian-populated territory remain in Azerbaijan.

Underlying these demands are the same tensions and frustrations that have fuelled recent demonstrations across the country including last month's devastating miners' strike.

The Azerbaijanis, like their protesting counterparts in the Baltic republics, Georgia and the country's coalfields, want greater local control and an end to what

they see as Moscow's colonial policies.

They also want to see the fruits of Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev's perestroika reforms, which they say are largely absent in a republic where cronyism and patronage still run rampant and where a number of progressive editors and journalists have been sacked by local authorities.

"We do only what the ministries in Moscow want, not what Azerbaijan wants," said Nazim Ragnov, an editor at a literary magazine. "We reject the fact that our republic is used only as a source of raw materials."

He said the region suffered from high unemployment and poverty despite its natural riches.

According to members of the Popular Front, just seven per cent of local economic activity

benefits the republic. Proceeds from all major sectors, including the prosperous oil, cotton and tourist industries, flow directly to Moscow, they say.

Despite the large turnout and defiant chants of "Strike, strike," the latest demonstration, the third in as many Saturdays, passed off without incident. Local police watched discreetly from the edges of the square.

There was no sign of Interior Ministry troops, despite emergency rules imposed last autumn in Baku and several other areas of Azerbaijan. The rules outlawed mass meetings in an attempt to prevent clashes with Armenians over Nagorno-Karabakh.

Protesters hoisted the flag from Azerbaijan's brief spell as an independent republic from 1918-1920 and waved banners backing

the Popular Front and demanding control over Nagorno-Karabakh, which has been part of Azerbaijan since 1923.

Nagorno-Karabakh's largely Armenian population wants it transferred to neighbouring Armenia, and some 100 people have died in related violence in the past 18 months. A special Kremlin commission has been running the territory since January.

Speaker after speaker took the microphone Saturday to demand recall of the Azerbaijan deputies to the Supreme Soviet, who they said were selected in unfair elections manipulated by the local Communist Party leadership.

They also called for an end to emergency rule and curfew, and legal recognition of the Popular Front.

Column III

Italians unveil 2,000-year-old ship

CAGLIARI, Sardinia (R) — Italian archaeologists have announced the discovery of a Roman cargo ship that sank 2,000 years ago and revealed they had kept the find secret for two years to thwart treasure-hunters. Domenico Salvini, who led a team that has just spent three weeks surveying the vessel, said the well-preserved wreck lay about two miles from the island of Mel di Venturo off Sardinia's west coast with its cargo of lead ingots still intact. He said customs police divers found it in 1987 after learning that a West German team was hunting in the same area. Salvini would not reveal the precise location and said the team was now seeking official funds to raise the wreck, which sank between 70 and 50 BC.

Dognapping suspect takes lie test

HOPKINTON, Rhode Island (AP) — A suspect has taken a polygraph test in the case of the possibly politically motivated abduction of a councilwoman's dog, authorities said. Authorities Saturday would not release results of the test or the suspect's name. Town council President Sandra Johnson's golden retriever Kelly, a seven-year-old female, failed to come home after a round July 31. Johnson said a man phoned her about 12 hours later and said, "get off the council and you'll get your dog." Johnson, a three-term Republican council member, has kept her position. Police have said that stealing a dog is punishable by up to a year in jail, and extortion by a maximum of 15 years in jail. Investigators said they think the call may be genuine because relatively few people knew of the dog's disappearance at the time the call was made.

Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art thou...

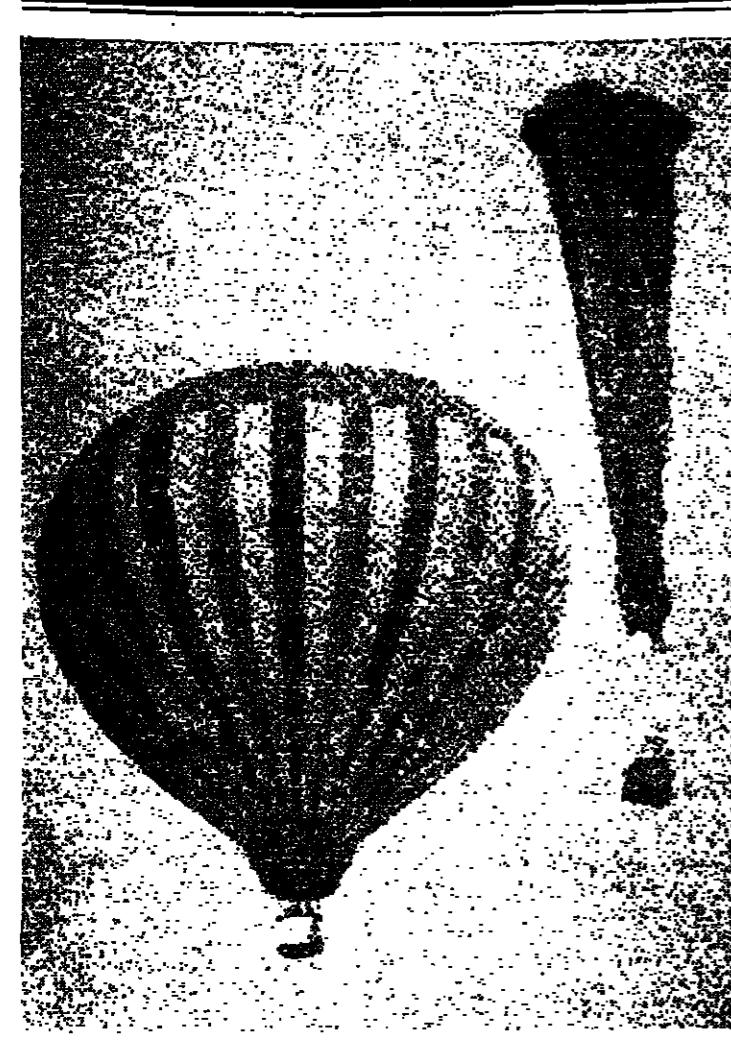
VERONA, Italy (R) — The famous balcony where Juliet stood calling out for Romeo has been declared unsafe and closed to the public. Council officials in the northern Italian city of Verona said inspectors had found serious damage to the stonework and ordered the tiny 13th century balcony closed for repairs. Hundreds of tourists visit Juliet's house each day to step out and be photographed on the balcony, where English dramatist William Shakespeare envisaged her calling to her lover: "O Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art thou Romeo?" Shakespeare's tragedy immortalised Romeo and Juliet; young lovers from rival families in 14th century Verona who married in secret and committed suicide. The officials said the inspection was ordered after small pieces of stone began crumbling away about a month ago.

Couple gives birth in Subaru — again

MERRIMACK, New Hampshire (AP) — Maybe it's the colour or the make, but two of Athens and Tom Chisholm's three children have been born in blue Subarus. Sunday morning Mrs. Chisholm told her husband it was time to go to the hospital in Manchester. But the drive from Merrimack was interrupted three kilometres from home with an urgent stop by the road in Bedford and the arrival of a 3,223-kg. daughter in the front seat of their blue 1987 Subaru. "The baby was sliding out. All I could do was catch her," Chisholm said. It was deja vu for the couple, who 2½ years ago delivered a son in the back of their old blue Subaru. "It's a lot easier to take the second time around," Chisholm said.

Global weather (major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.	COND.
AMSTERDAM	18	23	73 Clear
ATHENS	18	23	24-25 Cloudy
BAHRAIN	31	88	40 104 Clear
BANGKOK	24	75	32 80 Cloudy
Buenos Aires	12	53	19 85 Clear
CAIRO	22	72	34 83 Cloudy
CHICAGO	16	64	28 83 Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	12	64	22-23 72 Clear
FRANKFURT	22	77	12 94 Rain
GENEVA	14	61	29 84 Clear
HONG KONG	20	82	39 90 Clear
ISLAMABAD	20	85	27 91 Cloudy
LIMA	15	59	24-25 73 Cloudy
LOS ANGELES	20	89	31 86 Clear
MADRID	17	63	23 85 Cloudy
MELBOURNE	16	86	43 104 Clear
MONTRÉAL	14	67	24 78 Cloudy
MOSCOW	19	85	32 72 Clear
NEW DELHI	27	85	22 94 Cloudy
NEW YORK	21	70	29 84 Cloudy
ROME	17	63	24 75 Cloudy
SYDNEY	16	83	31 97 Clear
TOKYO	20	79	31 88 Clear
VIENNA	18	66	23 73 Cloudy



Hot air balloon Chariot of Fire falls to the ground after suddenly deflating on Aug. 5, the first day of competition at the 20th annual U.S. National Hot Air Balloon championship in Baton Rouge. Pilot Robert Mock died in the crash.

13 plunge to death in balloon

DARWIN, Australia (AP) — Passengers in a hot air balloon that crashed Sunday in the Australian outback tried to save themselves by jumping from the craft at the moment of impact, police and news reports said.

The balloon collided with another and plummeted at least 600 metres to the ground, killing all 13 people aboard, police said. They said the balloon fell out of the sky during a sightseeing trip over a desert near the central Australian town of Alice Springs, 1,285 kilometres south of the northern coastal city of Darwin.

An aviation expert called it the worst such accident in the 206-year history of ballooning.

A civil aviation authority spokesman said the crash resulted from a collision with another balloon but immediate details were unavailable. Police said they were viewing an amateur videotape to determine the cause.

News reports said three victims found some distance from the crash site apparently jumped out at the last moment in a bid to save themselves.

The 10 others were found huddled together in the woven basket attached to the canopy filled with liquid propane gas, police and emergency services officials said. The 13 aboard were believed to include a pilot and 12 tourists.

There apparently were no other injuries.

Witnesses in another balloon watched helplessly as the big canopy folded into itself and crashed. The heavy woven basket was ripped open by the impact.



Toshiki Kaifu

and shoes, hats and belongings were strewn around the crash site.

"It just folded up and plummeted to earth. Myself and my passengers were sickened," Ken Warr, manager of Aussie Ballooning who says he was piloting a balloon 6.5 kilometres from where the accident occurred, was quoted as saying by the Australian Associated Press (AAP).

A spokesman for another company, Outback Ballooning, said the balloon that crashed was owned by locally-based Toddy's Ballooning.

It took police three hours to remove the bodies, which were wedged tightly in the bottom of the basket. The balloon fabric fell in a heap beside the basket, which landed between two small trees in rugged open scrubland about 16 kilometres from the Alice Springs airport.

Identities of the victims were not available, nor was it immediately known if any foreigners were involved.

It was the second fatal ballooning crash in nine days. Another occurred in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on Aug. 5 and a videotape of the accident was used in television footage around the world, including Australia.

In that accident, pilot Robert A. Mock was killed when his balloon deflated at 900 metres during a national competition in Baton Rouge. Armond Edwards, an investigator for the National Transportation Safety Board, said that Mock's balloon was leaking before take-off.

Japanese civil servants carry on

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The report said Li had been sentenced Aug. 4 but did not



Anti-apartheid activists plan to step up campaign

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Anti-apartheid activists said Sunday they plan to defy beach segregation laws and demand integration of some "white-only" schools as the next phase of their nationwide defiance campaign.

With the government distracted by a leadership struggle (See story below), groups affiliated with the mass democratic movement said they intended to act against the beach segregation laws in Durban and demand integration of all-white schools in racially mixed inner-city neighbourhoods.

The defiance campaign, launched Aug. 2 when blacks and Indians peacefully sought treatment at segregated white hospitals, has been condemned by the National Party government as an attempt to provoke confrontation and violence.

Organisers of the democratic movement's continuing defiance campaign were quoted as saying they did not want to disclose too many details at this stage, but they said a rally was planned for next Sunday at one of the remaining whites-only beaches in Durban.

Plans also were announced for a meeting Thursday in Johannesburg to launch a campaign called "all schools for all people," to protest segregation of government schools. The Sunday Star said blacks living in central Johannesburg would be encouraged to take their children to under-used white schools near their homes.

Several inner-city neighbourhoods have become racially mixed in recent years as the government eased enforcement of residential segregation laws. But black children in these areas must travel long distances to outlying black townships if they wish to attend public schools.

By law and custom, apartheid establishes a racially segregated society in which South Africa's 28 million blacks have no vote in national affairs. The five million whites control the economy and maintain separate districts, schools and health services.

P.W. Botha

Kenneth Kaunda

F.W. de Klerk

The paper said the monk, named Xiao Shihua, "had no authority to speak for Buddhist circles... he is neither a patriotic nor devout monk."

It said he had embezzled money from his temple in Guiyang, south China and had a relationship with a married woman. Guiyang Buddhists had angrily disowned him when they saw television pictures of him taking part in protests, the paper said.

China forbids religious activities not under the control of official churches, which are closely monitored by authorities. The heads of several official religious groups in June publicly expressed support for Peking's military suppression

of the pro-democracy movement which may be a major step towards peace in the region and towards a post-apartheid alliance of southern African states.

De Klerk won the backing of cabinet colleagues Saturday ahead of the showdown of the two NP giants expected to take place at a full cabinet meeting called by Botha for Monday.

Party sources said anything could happen behind the closed doors at the Cape Town cabinet offices.

"The only predictable thing about him (Botha) is his unpredictability," one cabinet minister was quoted as saying.

Botha aware that he has nothing to lose in the final weeks of his presidency, has several dramatic options.

He may choose to sack some senior ministers, including de Klerk and Foreign Minister Pik Botha.

Botha were directly involved in boycotting the Kaunda meeting at the Zambian border town of Livingstone.

If that happened, political

China sentences 'secret society' leader to death

PEKING (R) — China has sentenced to death the peasant leader of a secret organisation called the "Great East Asia Buddhist Society" for "counter-revolutionary" activities, an official report reaching Peking Sunday said.

A provincial radio report monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) gave few details of the alleged crimes of Li Liangting, but many were similar to the accusations leveled at leaders of China's recent anti-government unrest.

The radio said Li, a peasant in east China's Shandong province, had enrolled 130 members into the society "in the name of curing diseases and explaining scriptures."

The report said Li had been sentenced Aug. 4 but did not

say whether his activities were linked to the nationwide wave of unrest in April, May and June this year. Thousands of alleged rioters and pro-democracy activists have been arrested since June and more than 20 death sentences announced.

Reports filtering through to Peking from China's provinces suggest the turmoil was more widespread than first thought, with almost all cities and many rural areas affected.

In a separate report Sunday, the Peking Evening News launched an attack on a Buddhist monk who appeared on Tiananmen Square in religious robes in May to tell students that Chinese Buddhists supported Peking's military suppression

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